A LINGUISTIC ATLAS
OF PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN

By

CARROLL E. REED
(University of Washington)

and

LESTER W. SEIFERT
(University of Wisconsin)

Marburg/Lahn
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INTRODUCTION

The present volume is a companion-piece to a previous monograph, entitled **The Pennsylvania German Dialect Spoken in the Counties of Lehigh and Berks: Phonology and Morphology** (University of Washington Press, Seattle 1949). A description of the common linguistic features in the principal Pennsylvania German areas was there augmented by brief observations on the variable elements therein (pp. 33–42, **et passim**). The evidence thus presented has now been checked throughout a much greater area in southeastern Pennsylvania, and it has finally been possible for us to illustrate the Pennsylvania German dialect areas by means of linguistic maps. Although considerably more evidence would be desirable, I have been encouraged by Professors Walther Mitzka and Bernhard Martin, of the University of Marburg, to publish the material as it now stands, in order that scholars in Germany as well as in America might have access to it. For this reason the legends of the maps are presented in bilingual form.

In addition to the complete records available from Lancaster, Dauphin, Snyder, Schuylkill and Northumberland Counties, partial records (based on short-form questionnaires) have been made in sections of Lebanon, eastern Berks, Lehigh, Carbon, Montgomery, Bucks and Mifflin Counties. Still more information has been obtained from personal contacts in York, Union, Berks and Northampton Counties, and some of the previous informants in Lehigh, Lebanon and western Berks Counties were polled again—as a check on the work done before. All of the material collected has since been examined in the light of supplementary evidence provided by the following scholarly writings: A. F. Buffington, "Linguistic Variants in the Pennsylvania German Dialect" (**The Pennsylvania German Folklore Society Yearbook**, Vol. XIII, 1948, pp. 217–52);[1] A. L. Shoemaker, **Studies on the Pennsylvania German Dialect of the Amish Community in Arthur, Illinois** (Thesis, University of Illinois, 1940);[2] and J. W. Frey, **The German Dialect of Eastern York County** (Thesis, University of Illinois, 1941). Wherever these works indicate a contradiction in any way with the work of Dr. L. W. Seifert and myself, I have consulted with persons living in the areas under question.[3]

In the maps to follow, these limitations should be observed: (1) a good number of the items illustrated were not included in the short–form questionnaire, (2) phonological and morphological variants are sometimes not represented in the entire area, since they are occasionally replaced by lexical variants, (3) lexical variants, with the exception, of a few given here, have been reserved for later publication; although a survey of lexical variants was published by my collaborator, Dr. L. W. Seifert, in **The Pennsylvania German Folklore Yearbook**, Vol. XI, 1946,[4] a more comprehensive treatment of lexical material is contemplated for the future.

1. Buffington polled 82 speakers from the entire Pennsylvania area. About eighty per cent of the items he lists are taken verbatim from our questionnaire. Although some of them have been misconstrued, or used incorrectly, they provide a fairly good check on our work.

2. Shoemaker's very interesting details on a secondary settlement have a special advantage for the student of Pennsylvania German, in that the author has provided, at the same time, a great deal of valuable information on his own dialect area, Lehigh County.

3. Buffington's informant in northern Lancester County, for example, differs sharply from all the other speakers I have been able to contact there.

4. "Lexical Differences between four Pennsylvania German Regions," pp. 155–176.

An inquiry into the origins and development of Pennsylvania German dialects is not the immediate purpose of the maps presented here. While historical considerations play an important role in the interpretation of dialect variants, the first objective of linguistic investigation is to collect and organize the facts, and it is primarily this intent that has been realized here. The basic settlement history has been given previously,[5] and a general outline of dialect origins has been treated at some length.[6] An understanding of the distribution of dialect variants is greatly facilitated, of course, by the examination of certain related historical data. For this reason a number of supplementary maps are included in order to illustrate the pertinent conditions of settlement background and the corresponding features of German dialects in the areas from which the Pennsylvania Germans originated. Such materials will have valuable significance in historical linguistics, once the necessary structural description has been established, Although Buffington is entirely justified in saying that many dialect variants may "have to be explained as due to factors other than early settlement history" (**op. cit.**, p. 252), it is interesting to see what a striking relationship exists between the historical facts which are known and the linguistic facts synchronically recorded.

Maps 1 and 2 are given in order to show the limits of Pennsylvania German speech, as well as names and locations of those counties involved in this investigation. Maps 3 and 4 are constructed on the basis of information given in a map of colonial Pennsylvania.[7] It will be noted that early Pennsylvania county lines frequently coincide with isogloss bundles of the present day. In the sketch of main–travelled roads of 1776 (Map 4), it should be noted that present–day York, Lancaster, Womelsdorf, Bethlehem and Doylestown were prominent crossroads at that time, whereas Harrisburg, Lebanon and Reading—now the hub cities—were of relatively less importance. The lines of communication thus established can furnish a great deal of information with respect to dialect history, and in this connection the principal waterways, which cut across mountain ranges and head generally southward, should also be noted.

Among the German maps inserted here is a historical map of the Palatinate, taken from Wilhelm Winkler's **Pfälzischer Geschichtsatlas** (Neustadt a. d. Hardt, 1935), and a number of dialect maps constructed from the files of the **Deutscher Sprachatlas** (DSA.), at the University of Marburg. Wherever corresponding maps existed, reference has also been made to the **Deutscher Wortatlas** (DW.). A study of such materials, along with those available in the **Pfälzische Wörterbuchkanzlei** in Kaiserslautern, will not only contribute a great deal to the interpretation of Pennsylvania German dialect areas, but may also serve to create new vistas in the field of general linguistics.

CARROLL E. REED

Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe-Universität
Frankfurt am Main, 1954

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5. C. E. Reed and L. W. Seifert, "A Study of the Pennsylvania German Dialect Spoken in the Counties of Lehigh and Berks," **Modern Language Quarterly,** Vol. IX, no. 4, Dec. 1948, pp. 448–66.

6. L. W. Seifert, "Dialect Differences between and within Western Berks and Western Lehigh Counties, Pa.," **The Allentown Morning Call,** March 15, 22, 29, 1941, and "Causes of the Dialectal Differences between Western Berks and Western Lehigh Counties," **ibid.,** July 26, Aug. 2, 1941, and A. F. Buffington, "Pennsylvania German; its relation to other German dialects," **American Speech,** Vol. XIV, no. 4 (1939), pp. 276–86.

7. In a collection of Americana at Brown University, Providence, R. I.

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VERZEICHNIS DER KARTEN

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2. Base Map of Southeastern Pennsylvania – Grundkarte Südostpennsylvaniens.
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4. Early Roads in Pennsylvania – Koloniale Verkehrsstraßen Pennsylvaniens.
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7. church – Kirche.
8. mountain – Berg.
9. through – durch.

9a. through – durch (DSA.).

10. heel – Ferse.
11. if I **were** – wenn ich **wäre.**
12. to sweep – auskehren.
13. have **heard** – habe **gehört.**
14. on the **first** floor – im **ersten** Stock.
15. harvest – Ernte
16. potatoes – Kartoffeln.
17. huckleberries – Heidelbeeren.
18. strawberries – Erdbeeren.
19. door – Tür.
20. monday – Montag.
21. honey – Honig.
22. bird – Vogel.
23. stove – Ofen.
24. kitchen – Küche.
25. flies – Fliegen.
26. bunch – Büschel.
27. bare-headed – ohne Hut.
28. beans – Bohnen.
29. second crop of hay – zweiter Grasschnitt.
30. he **lives** – er **wohnt.**
31. chimney – Schornstein.
32. five – fünf.
33. garlic – Knoblauch.
34. window – Fenster.
35. paper bag – Tüte.
36. broom – Besen.

36a. broom – Besen (DSA.).

37. floor – Boden.
38. orchard – Baumgarten.
39. washboiler – Waschkessel.
40. pie – (nur Englisch).
41. you **should** – du **solltest.**
42. he **should** – er **sollte.**
43. want to – wollen.

43a. want to – wollen (DSA.).

44. you (pl.) **want to** – ihr **wollt.**

44a. you (pl.) **want to** – ihr **wollt** (DSA).

45. they **want to** – sie **wollen.**
46. if they **wanted to** – wenn sie **wollten.**
47. we **were** – wir **waren.**
48. you (pl.) **were** – ihr **wart.**
49. we **would go** – wir **gingen** (konj.)
50. he **lies** in bed – er **liegt** im Bett.
51. you (pl.) **need** – ihr **braucht.**
52. you (pl.) **can** – ihr **könnt.**
53. you (pl.) **have** – ihr **habt.**

53a. you (pl.) **have** – ihr **habt.**

54. we **do** – wir **tun.**

54a. wo **do** – wir **tun** (DSA.).

55. look out! – gebt acht!
56. I **see** him – ich **sehe** ihn.

57. **do** you **see?** – **siehst** du?

58. he **sees** – er **sieht.**

59. he **says** – er **sagt.**

60. he **carries** – er **trägt.**

61. Past participle prefix with verbs beginning in 1-, m-, n-, r-, w-. Vorsilbe des Partiziperfekts mit Verben, die anlautendes 1-, m-, n-, r-, oder w- haben.

61a. (DSA. „gelernt").

62. you (pl.) – ihr (2. p. pl.).

62a. you (pl.) – ihr (2. p. pl.) (DSA.).

63. gardens – Gärten.

64. daughters – Töchter.

65. windows – Fenster (pl.).

66. brothers and sisters – Geschwister.

67. **short** nails – **kurze** Nägel.

67a. (schlechte Zeiten) (DSA.).

68. graveyard – Kirchhof.

69. to sit – sitzen.

70. lard – Schweinefett.

71. autumn – Herbst.

72. bucket – Eimer.

73. beads – Glasperlen.

74. sit **down** – sich **hin**setzen.

75. cup – Tasse.

76. sheaf – Garbe.

77. lantern – Laterne.

78. **hands** of a clock – Uhrenzeiger (pl.).

79. the dog **barks** – der Hund **bellt.**

80. meadow – Wiese.

81. to deny – verleugnen.

82. cradle – Wiege.

83. dress – Damenkleid.

84. squirrel – Eichhörnchen.

85. shovel – Schaufel.

86–89. Composita.

90. Diminutiva.

90a. Diminutiva (DSA.).

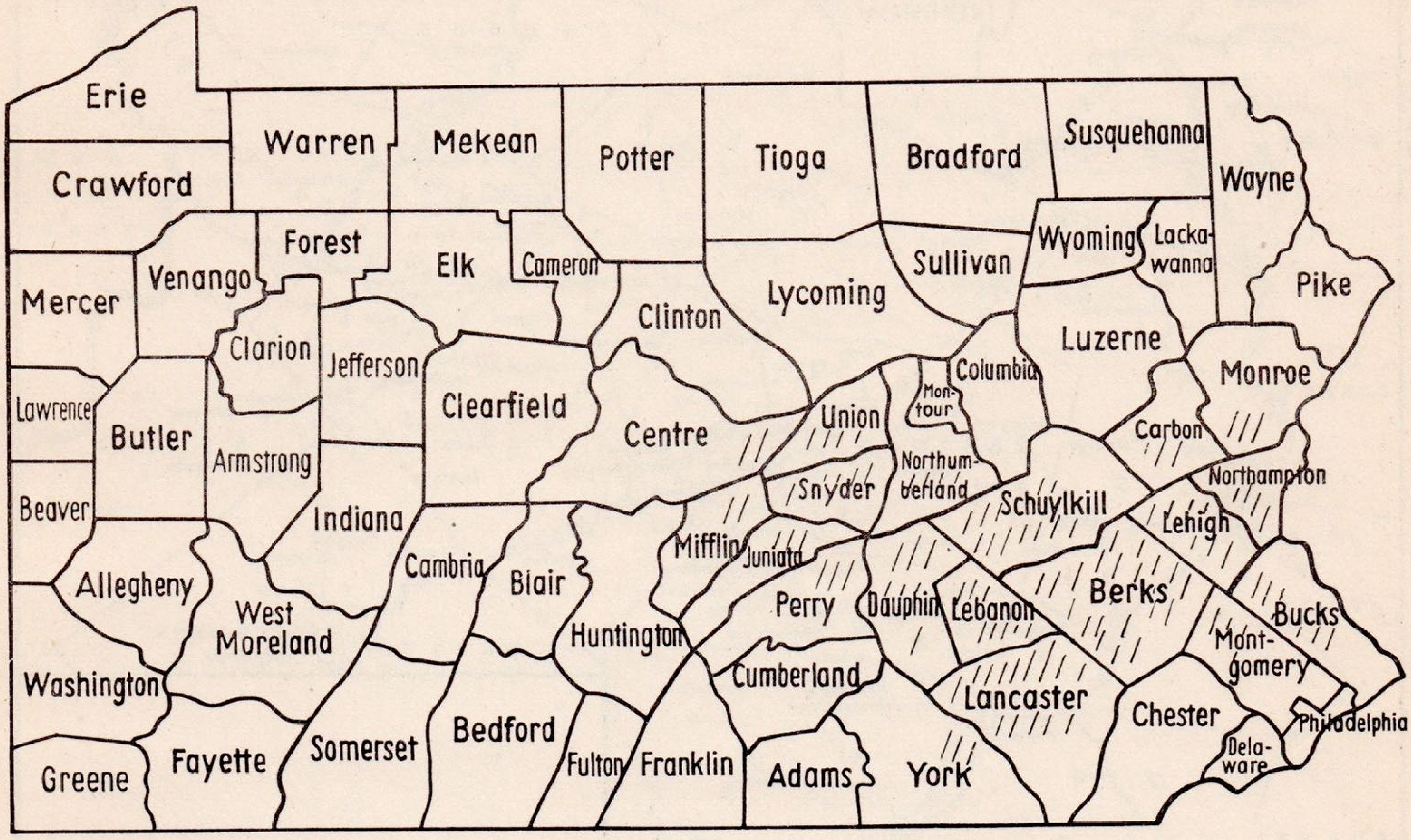
NOTE

The system of phonemic spelling employed in my previous monograph has been modified here as follows:

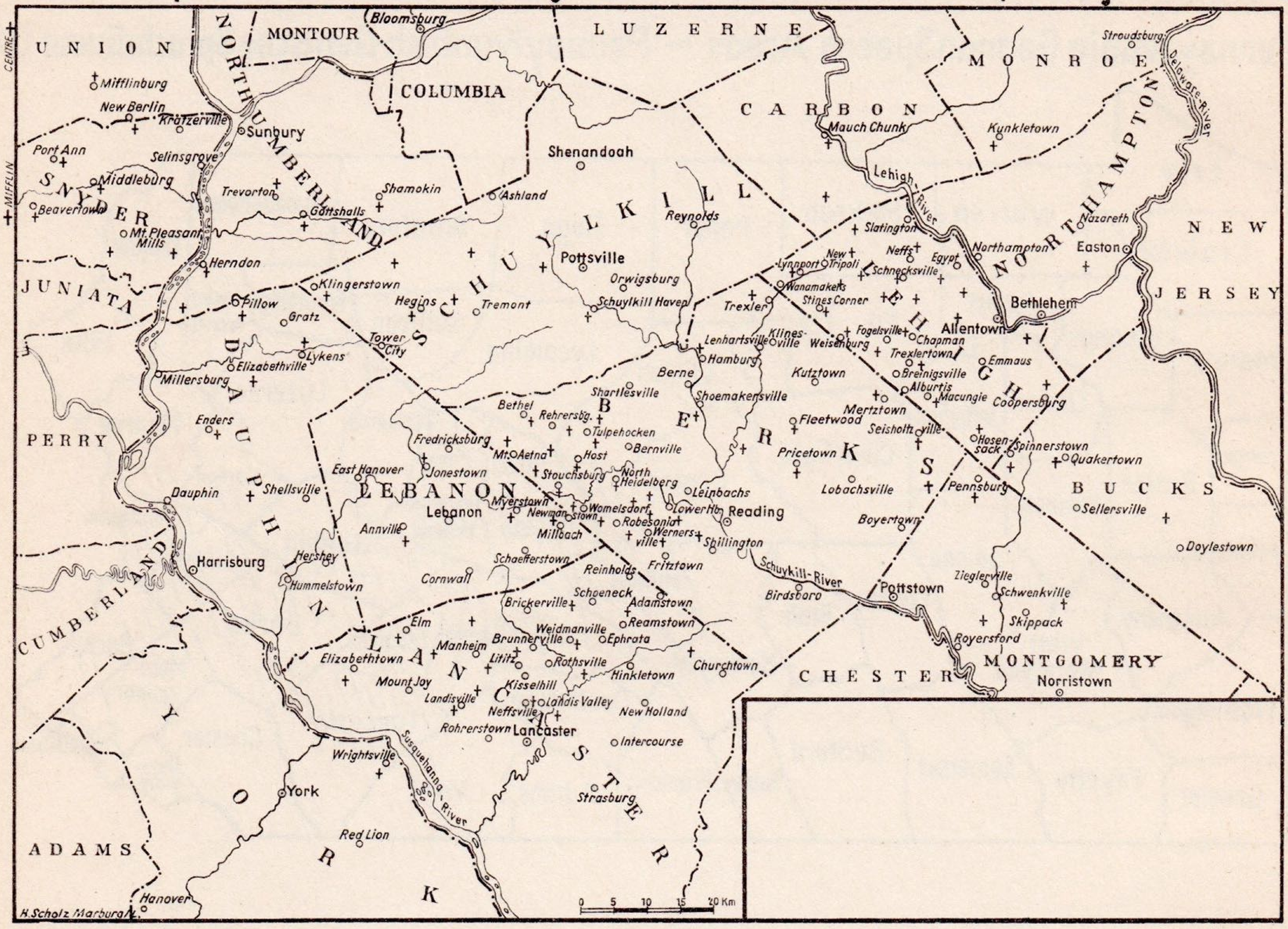
ds –	/c/
dsch –	/č/
sch –	/š/
ch –	/x/
ǭ –	/a:/
a, ä –	/a/

C. E. R.

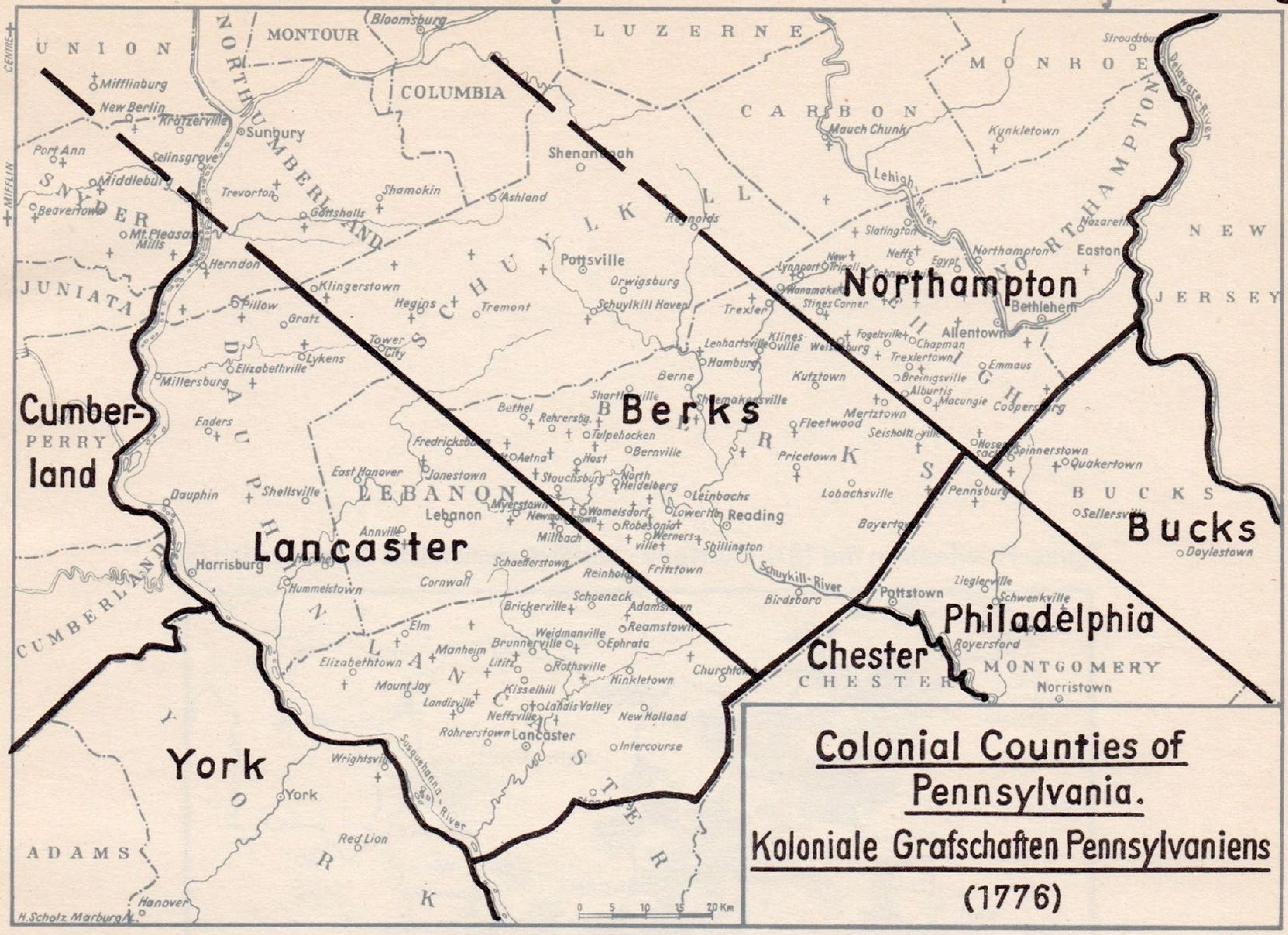
Pennsylvania German Speech Areas — Pennsylvanisch-Deutsche Sprachräume ①



Base Map of Southeastern Pennsylvania - Grundkarte Südostpennsylvaniens ②



Southeastern Pennsylvania Südostpennsylvanien ③

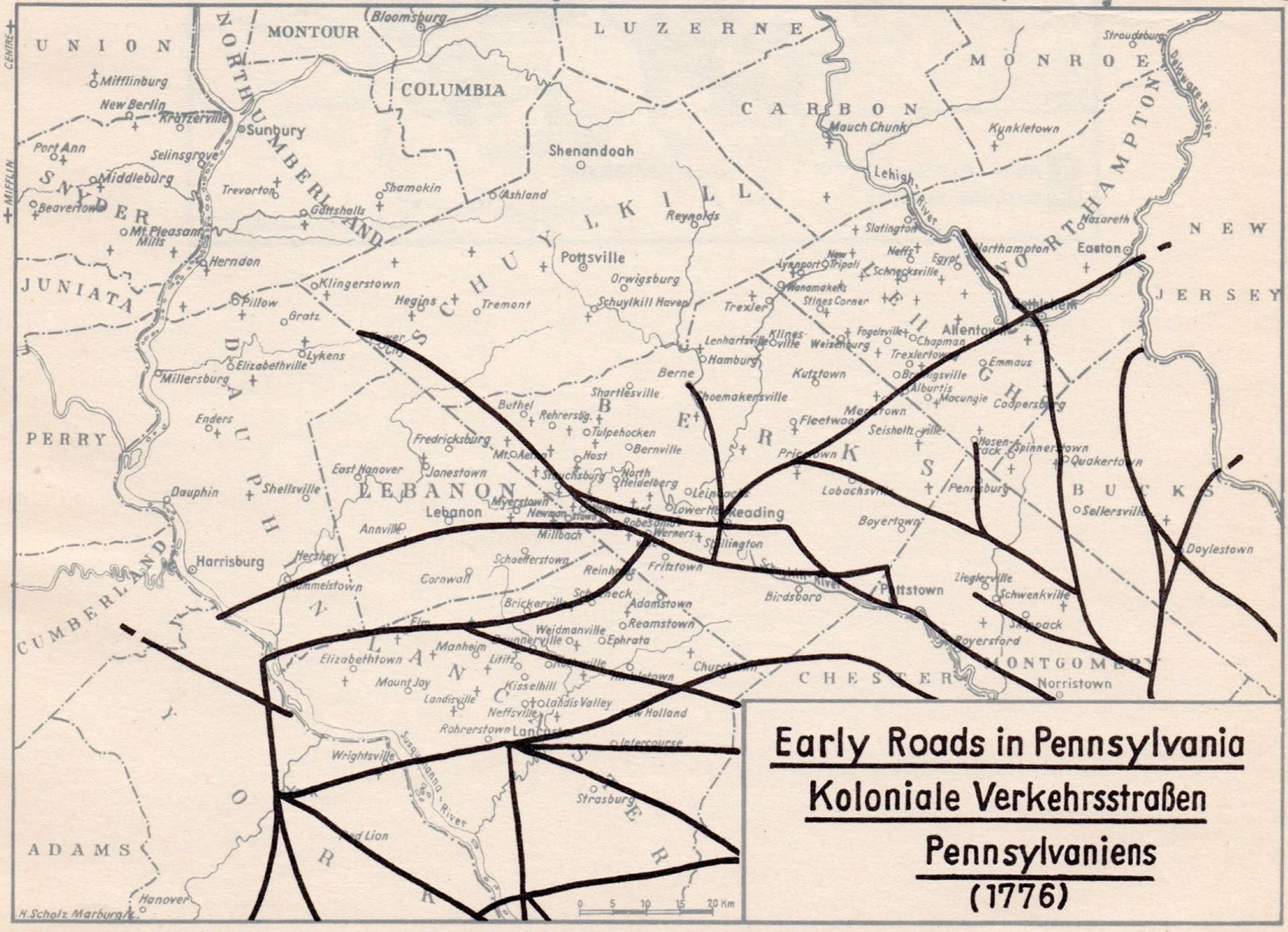


Colonial Counties of Pennsylvania.

Koloniale Grafschaften Pennsylvaniens

(1776)

Southeastern Pennsylvania Südostpennsylvanien ④

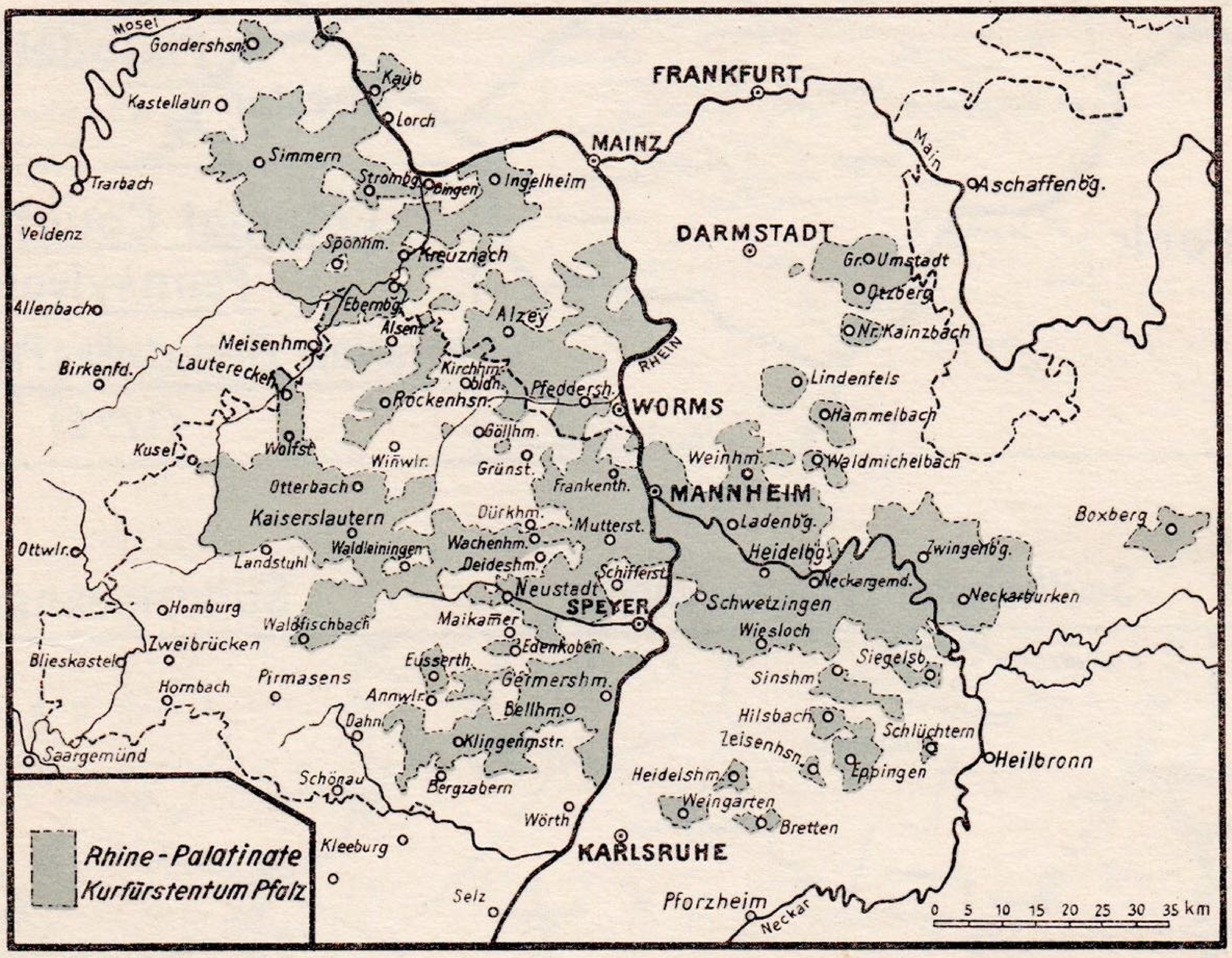


Early Roads in Pennsylvania

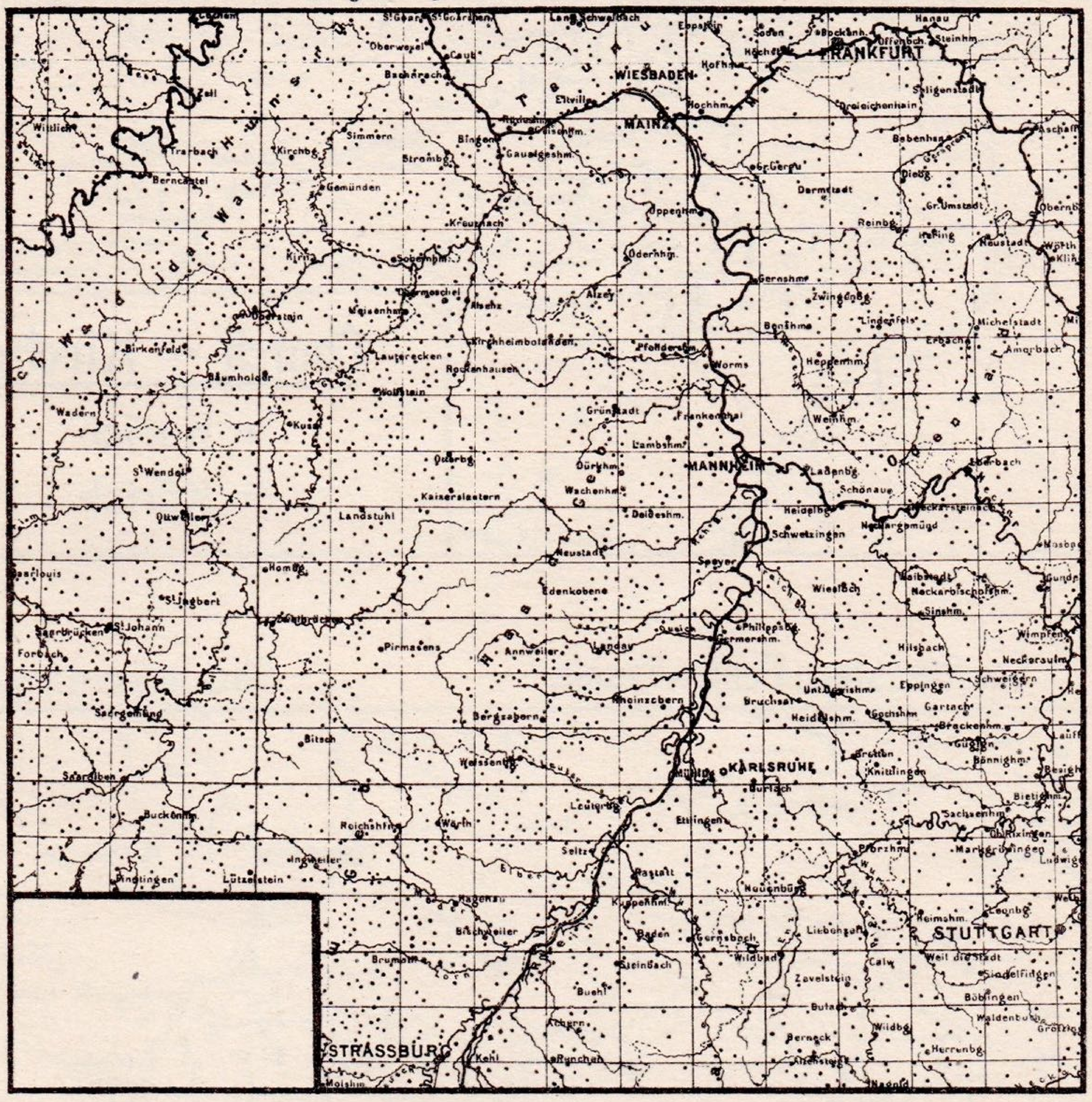
Koloniale Verkehrsstraßen Pennsylvaniens

(1776)

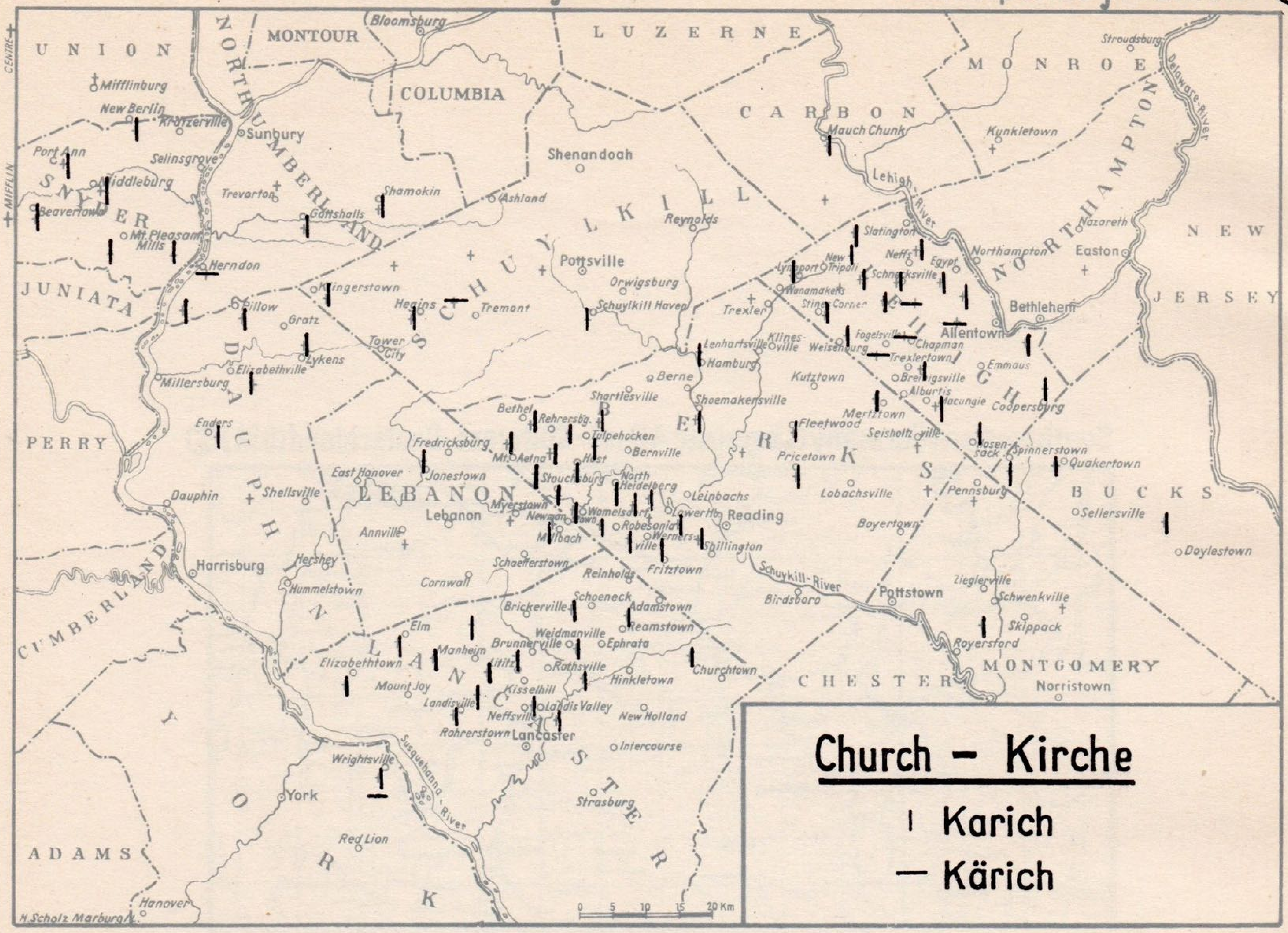
Rhine-Palatinate in the 18th Century - Kurfürstentum Pfalz im 18. Jahrhundert ⑤



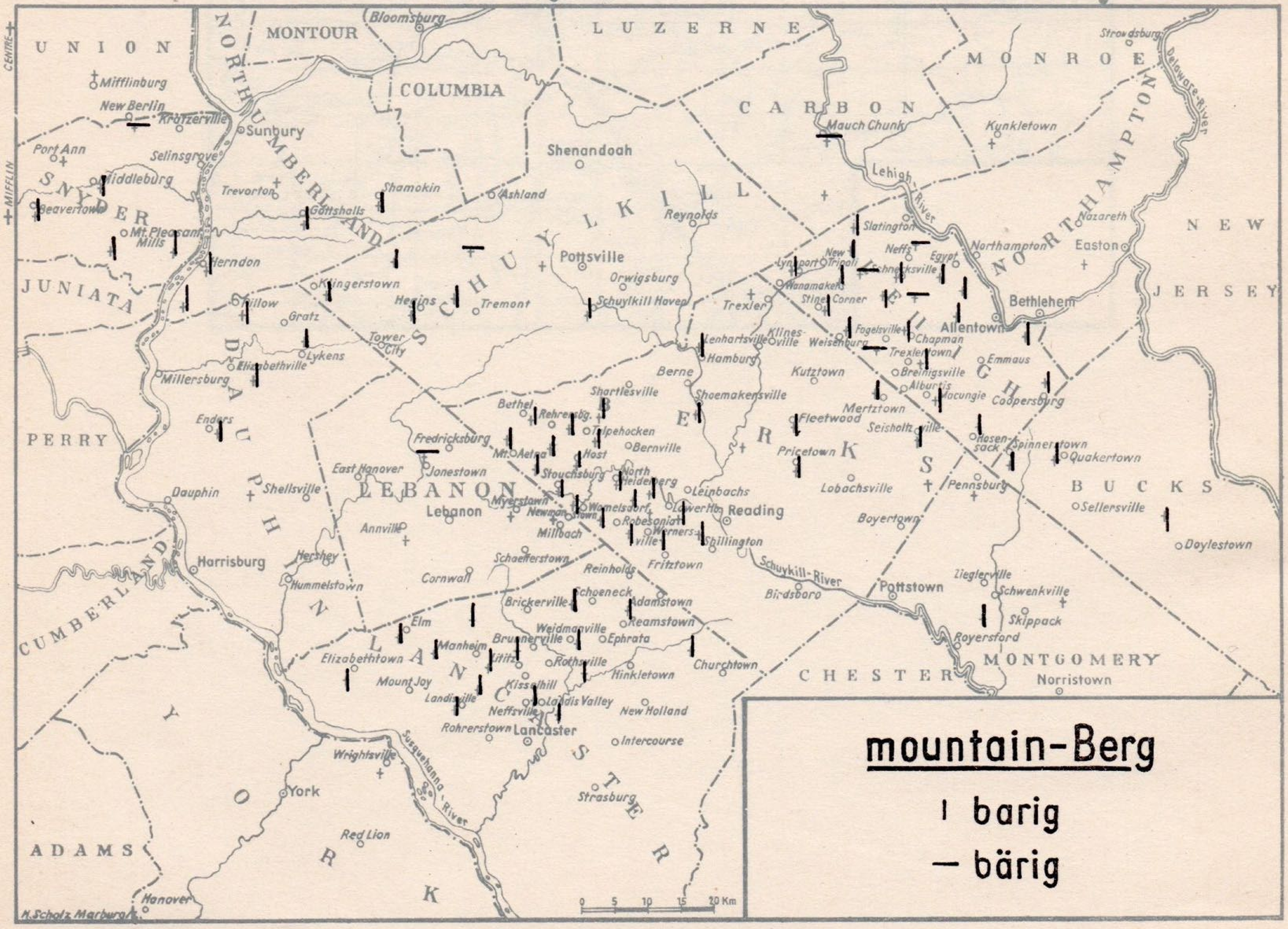
Southwestern Germany (Linguistic Atlas) - Südwest-Deutschland (DSA.) ⑥



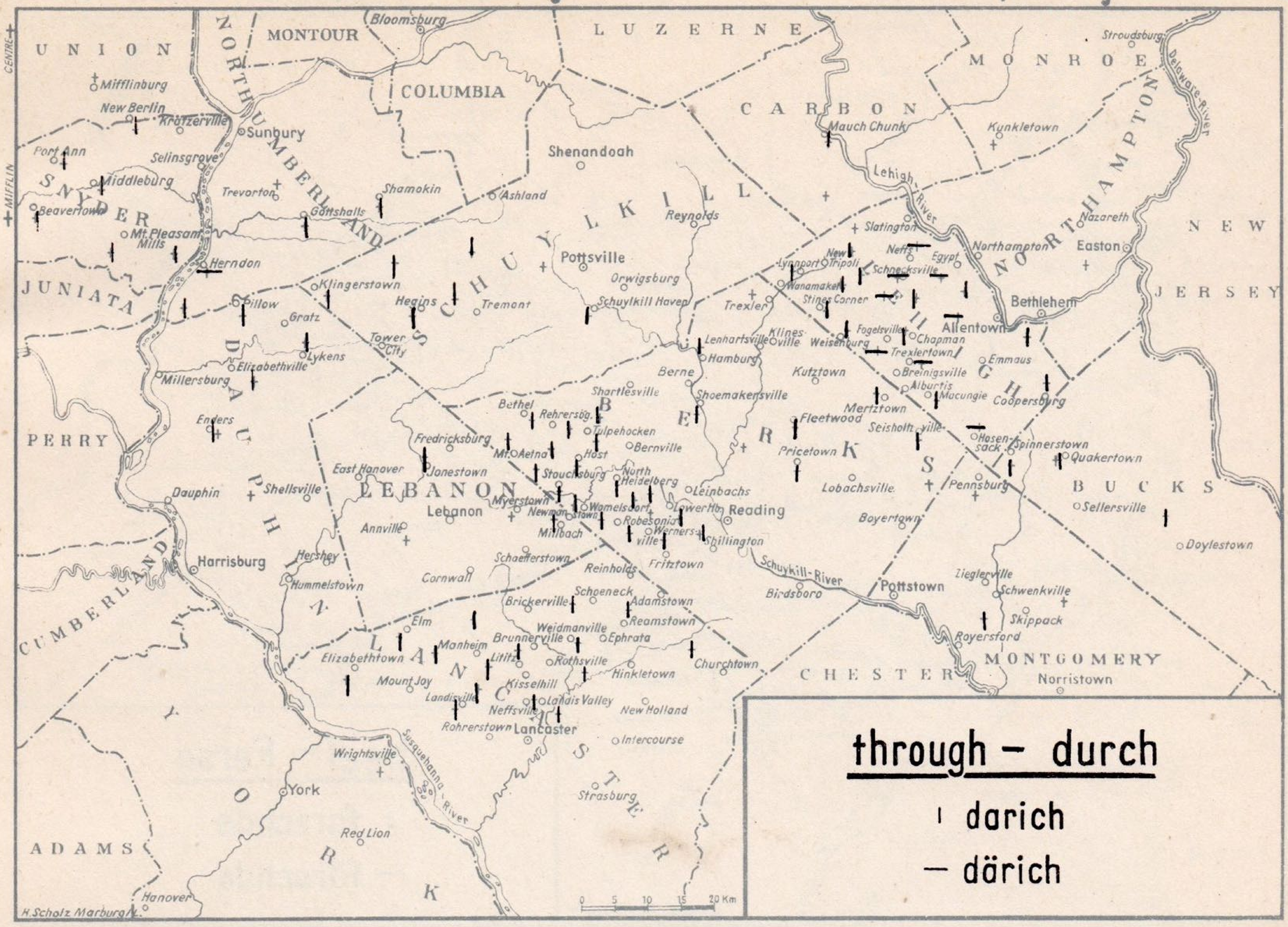
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien ⑦



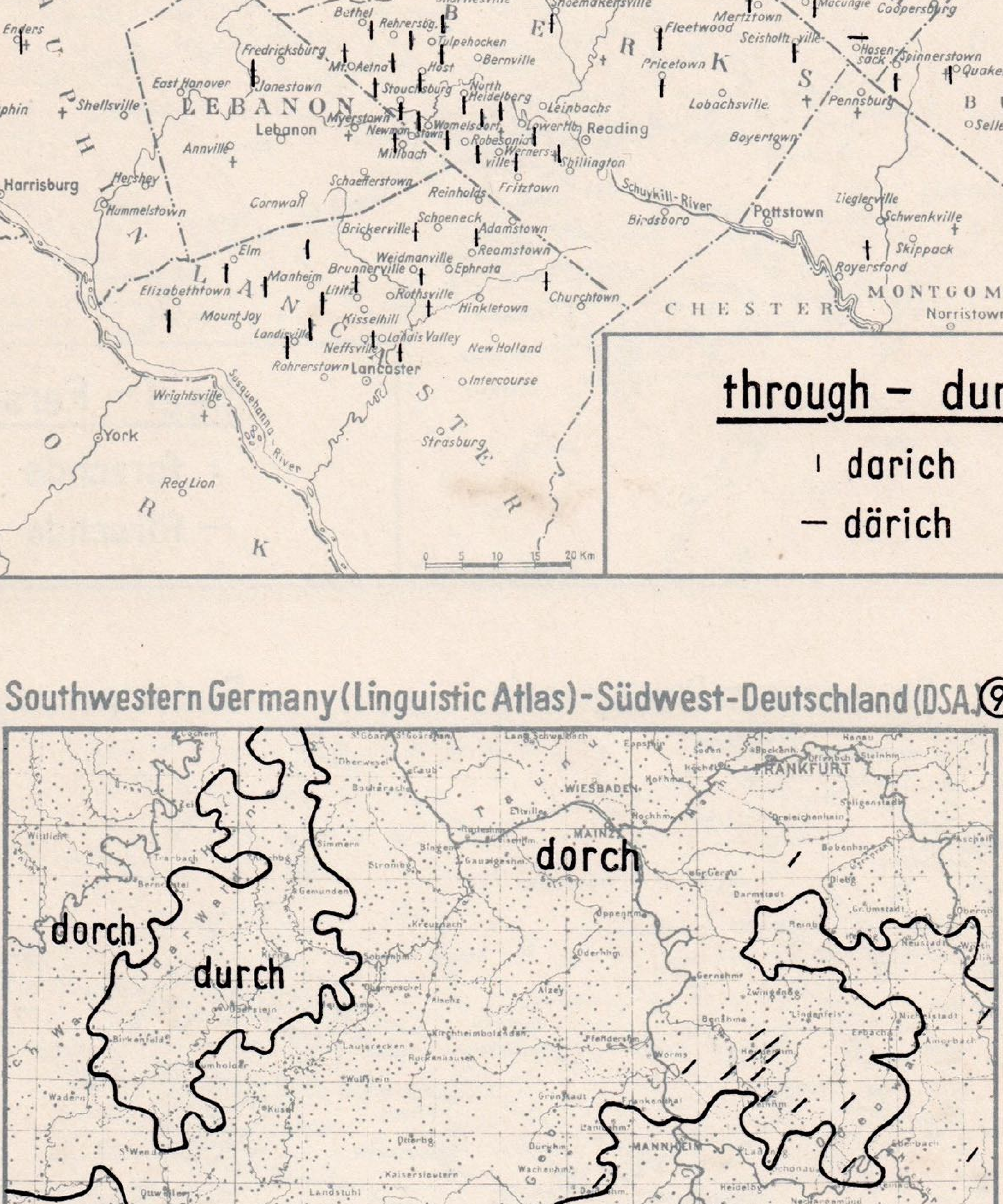
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien ⑧



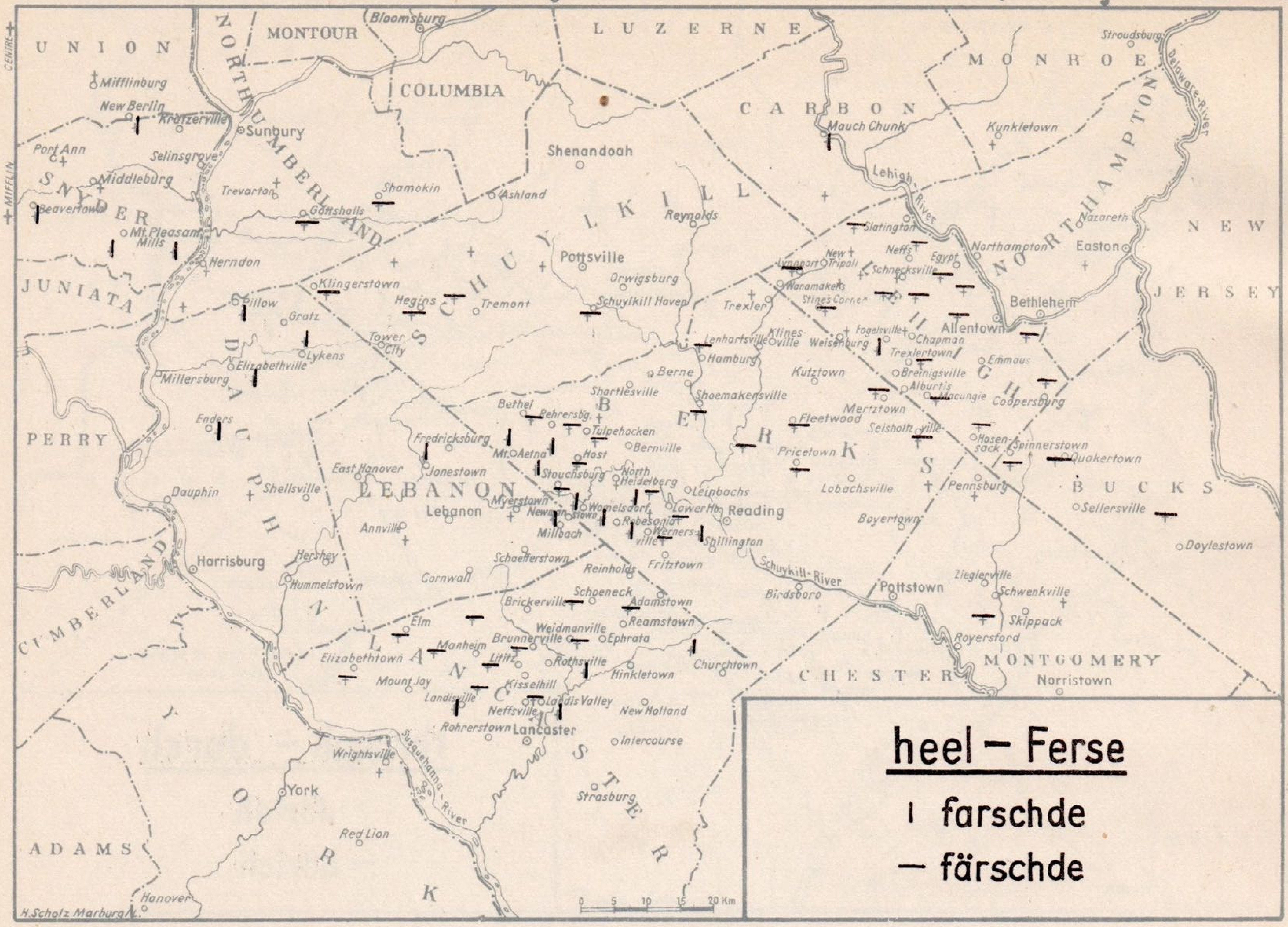
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (9)



Southwestern Germany (Linguistic Atlas) - Südwest-Deutschland (DSA) (9)a



Southeastern Pennsylvania   Südostpennsylvanien ⑩

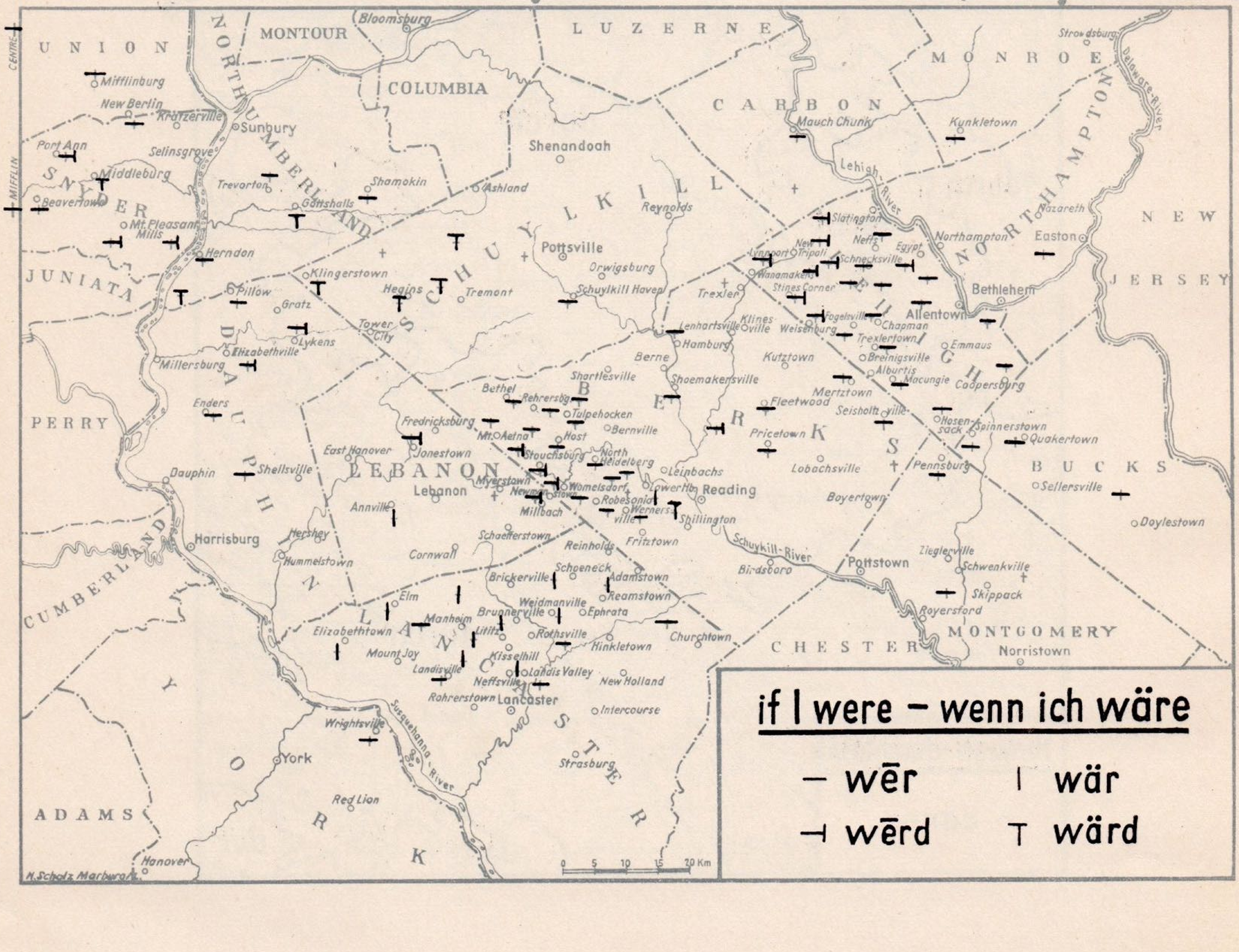


heel – Ferse

ı farschde

– färschde

Southeastern Pennsylvania   Südostpennsylvanien ⑪

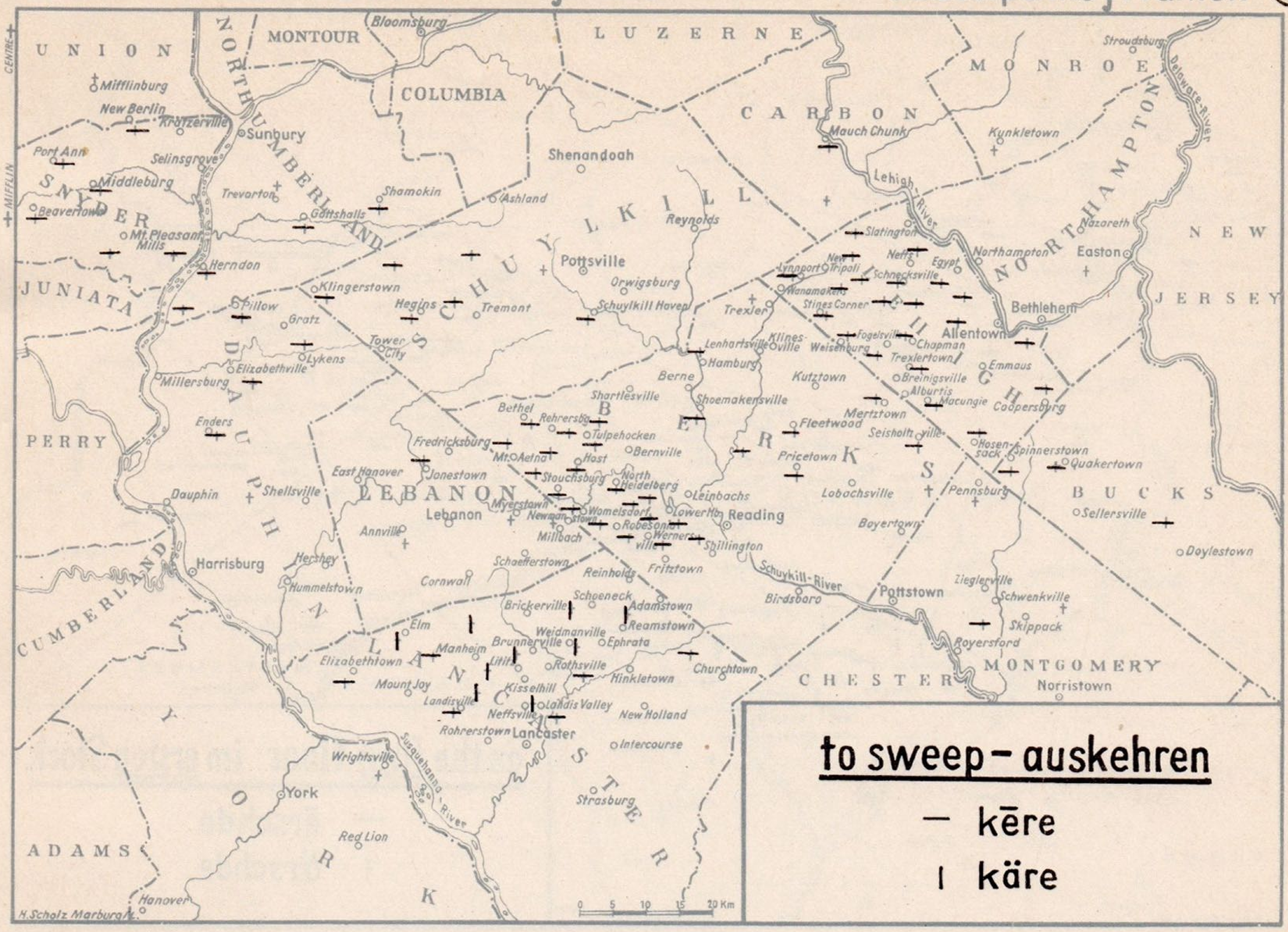


if I were – wenn ich wäre

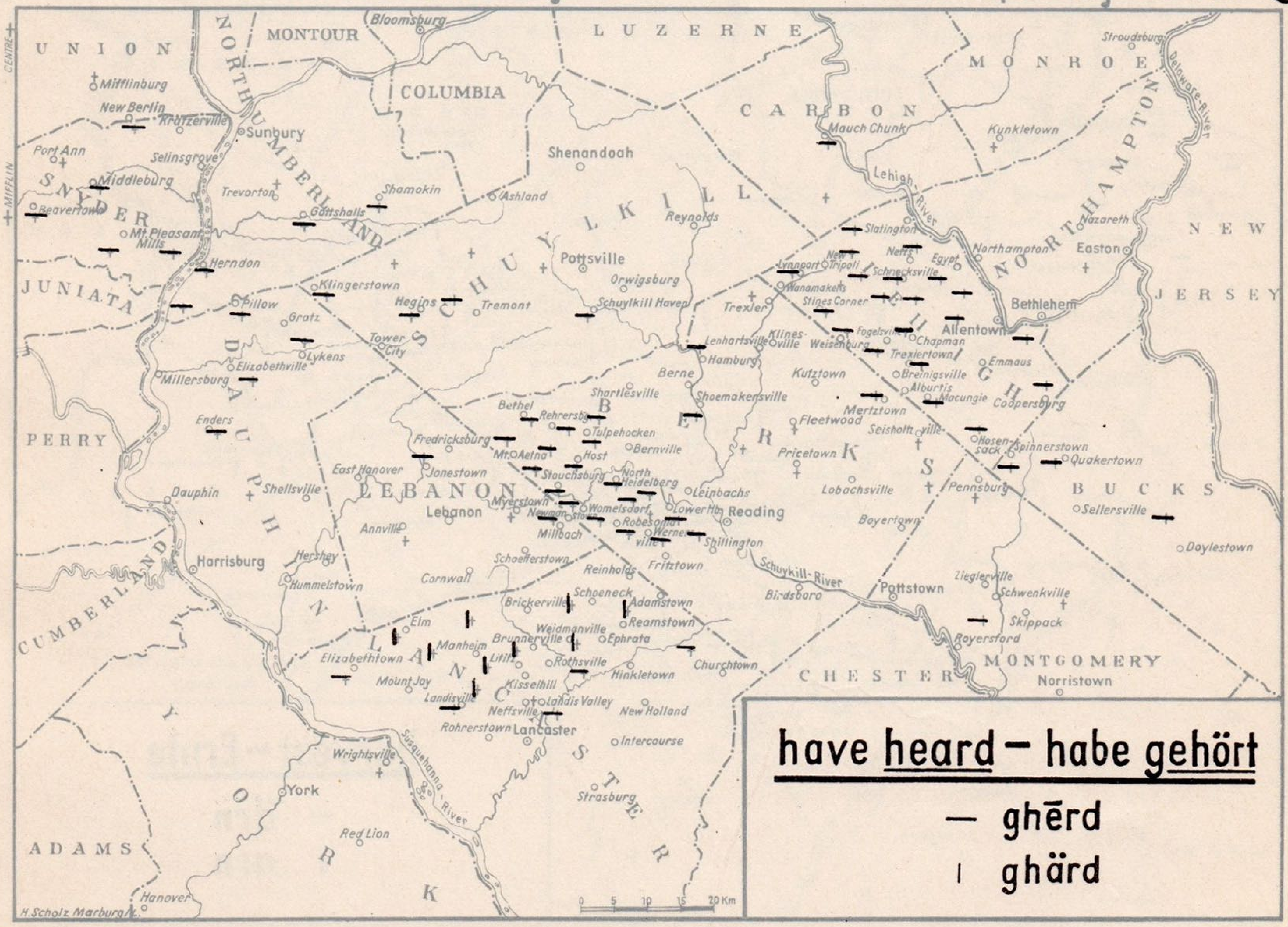
– wēr   ı wär

⊣ wērd   ⊤ wärd

Southeastern Pennsylvania Südostpennsylvanien ⑫



Southeastern Pennsylvania Südostpennsylvanien ⑬



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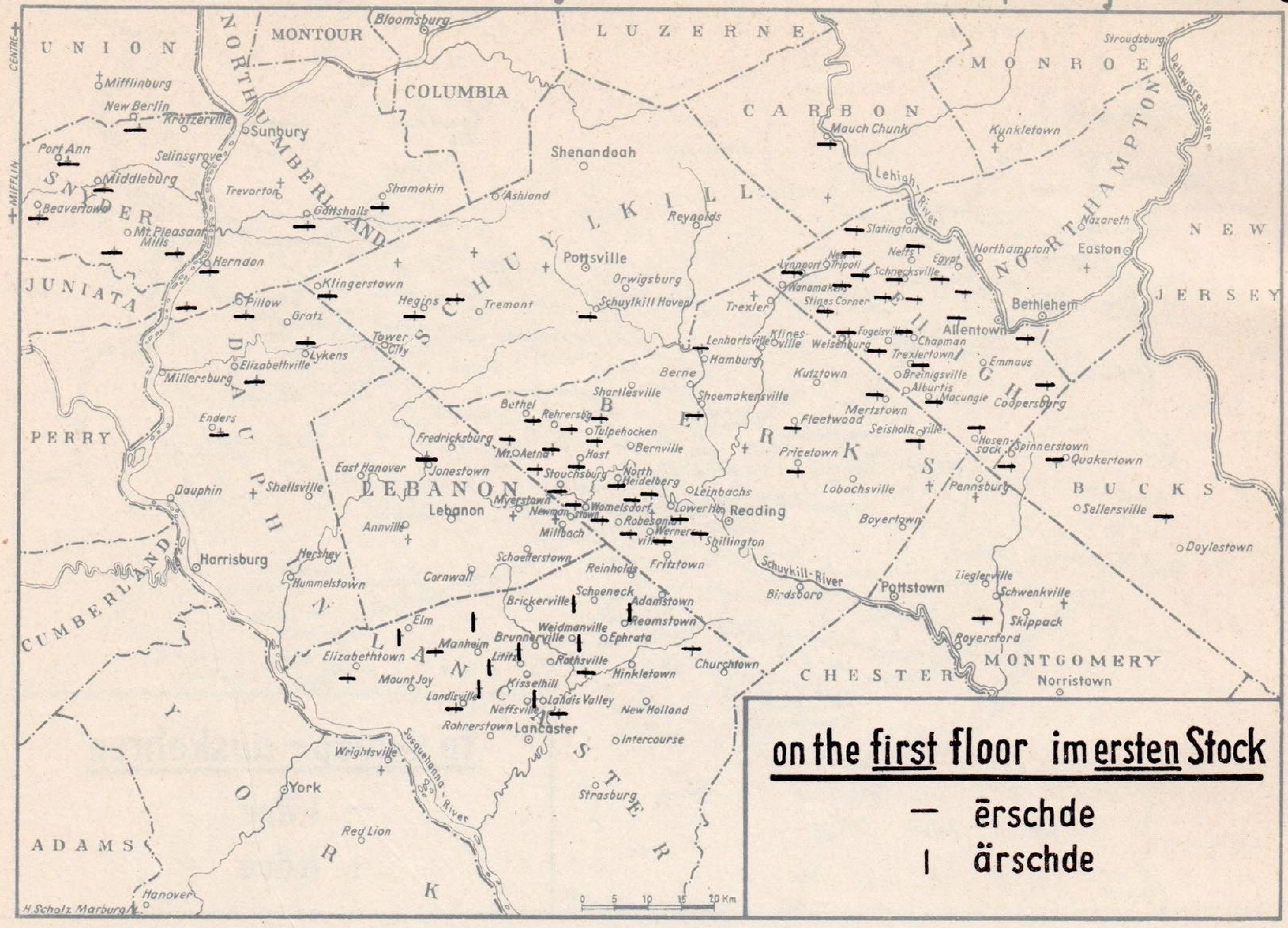

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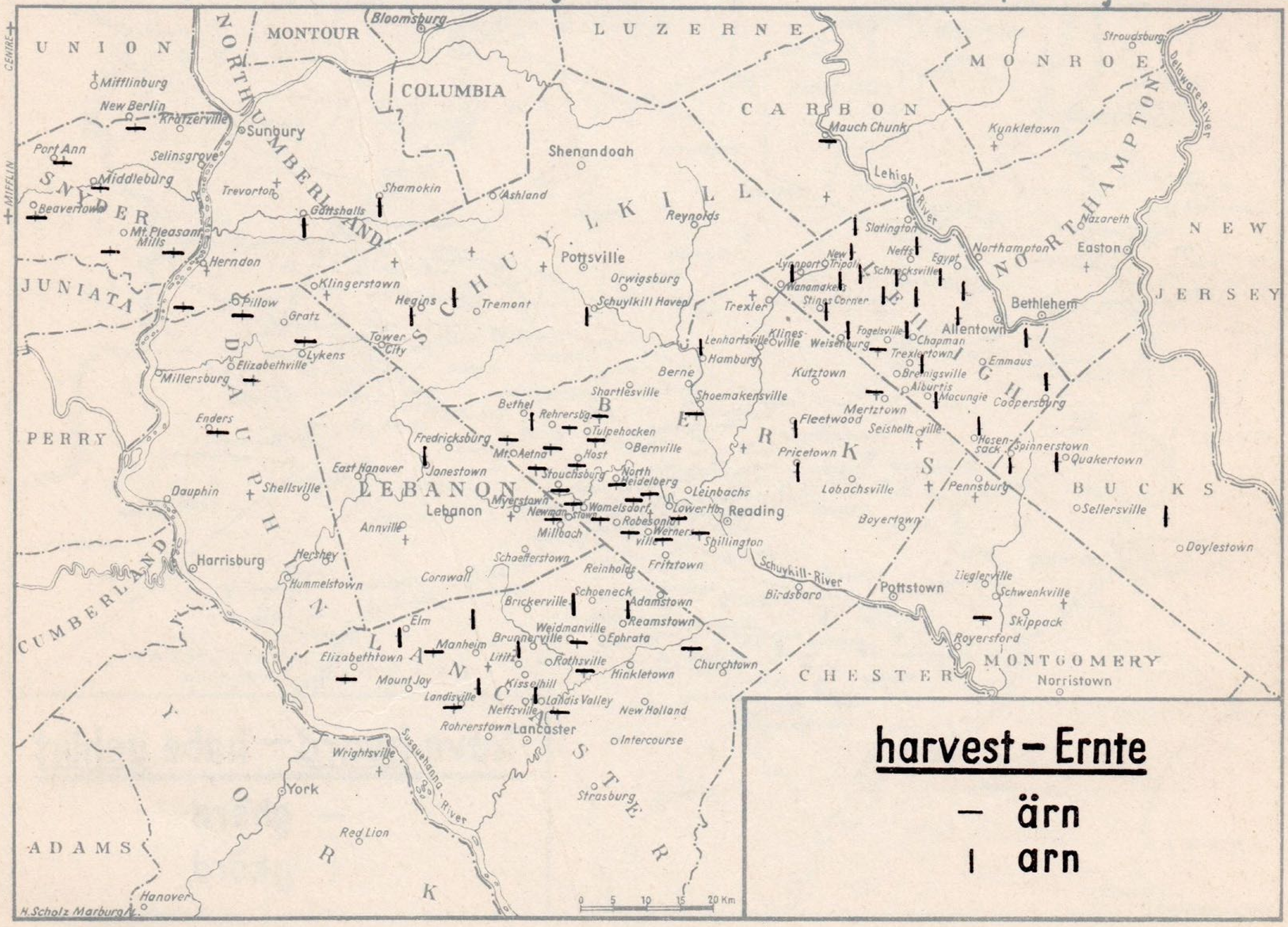

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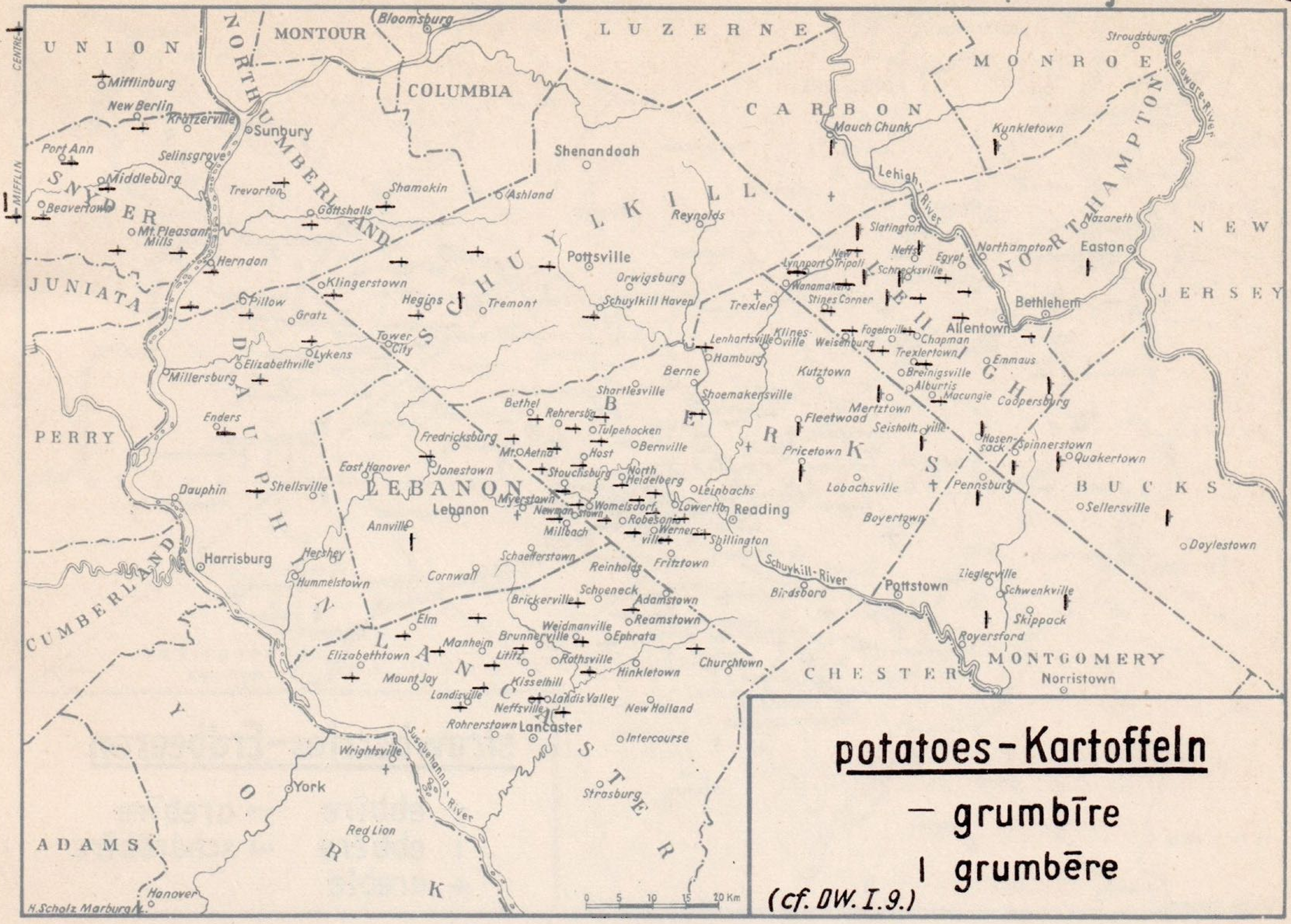

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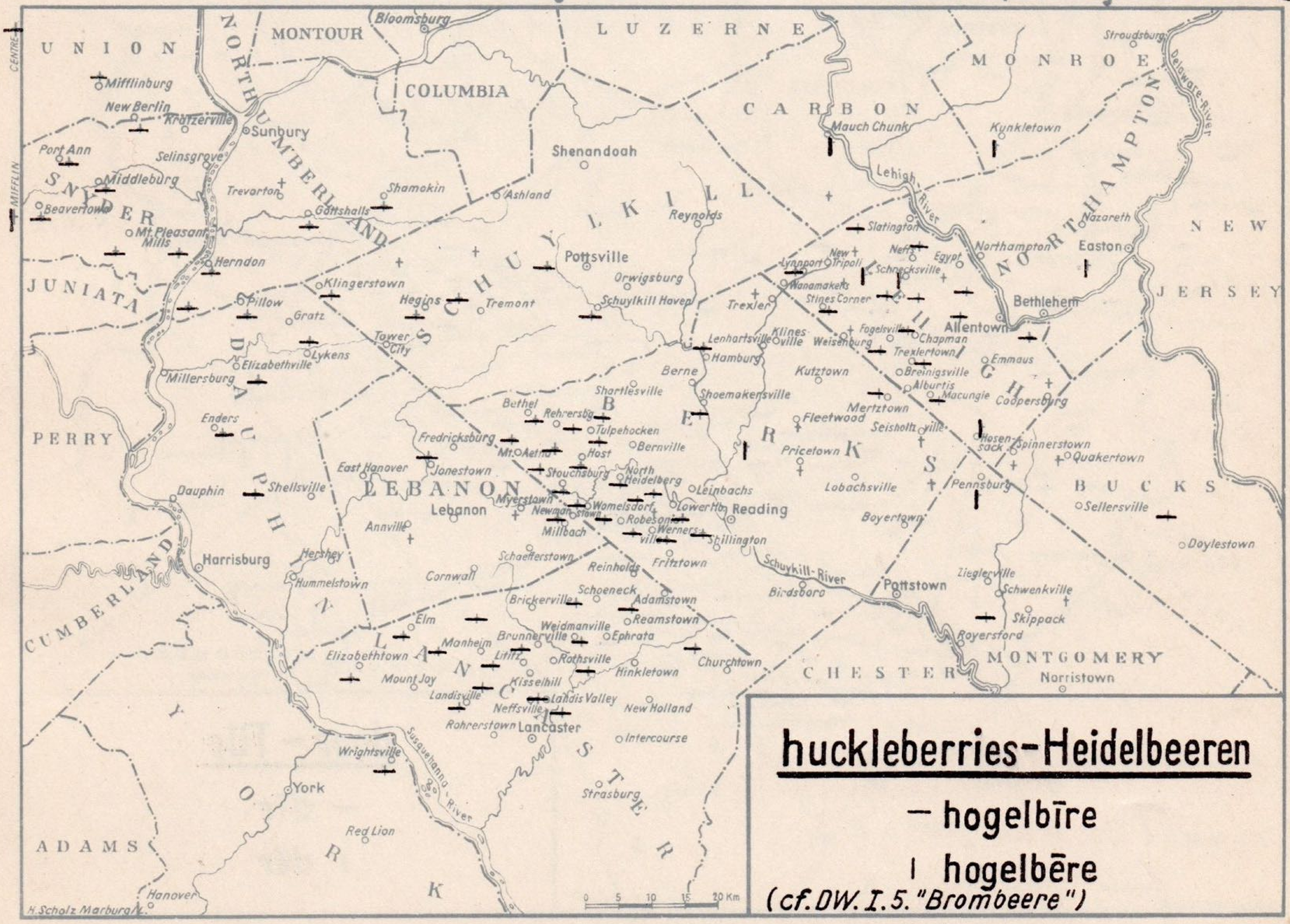

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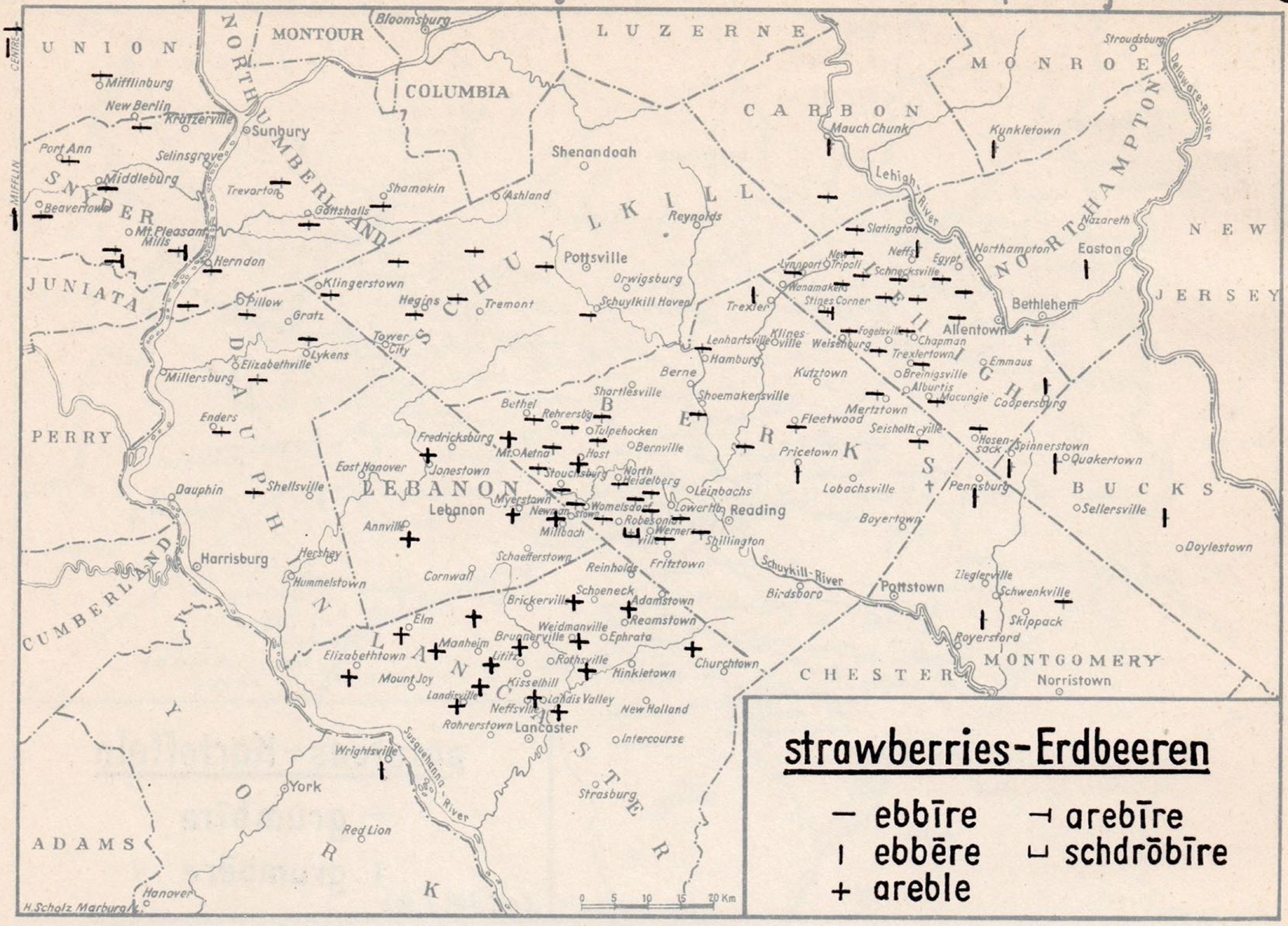

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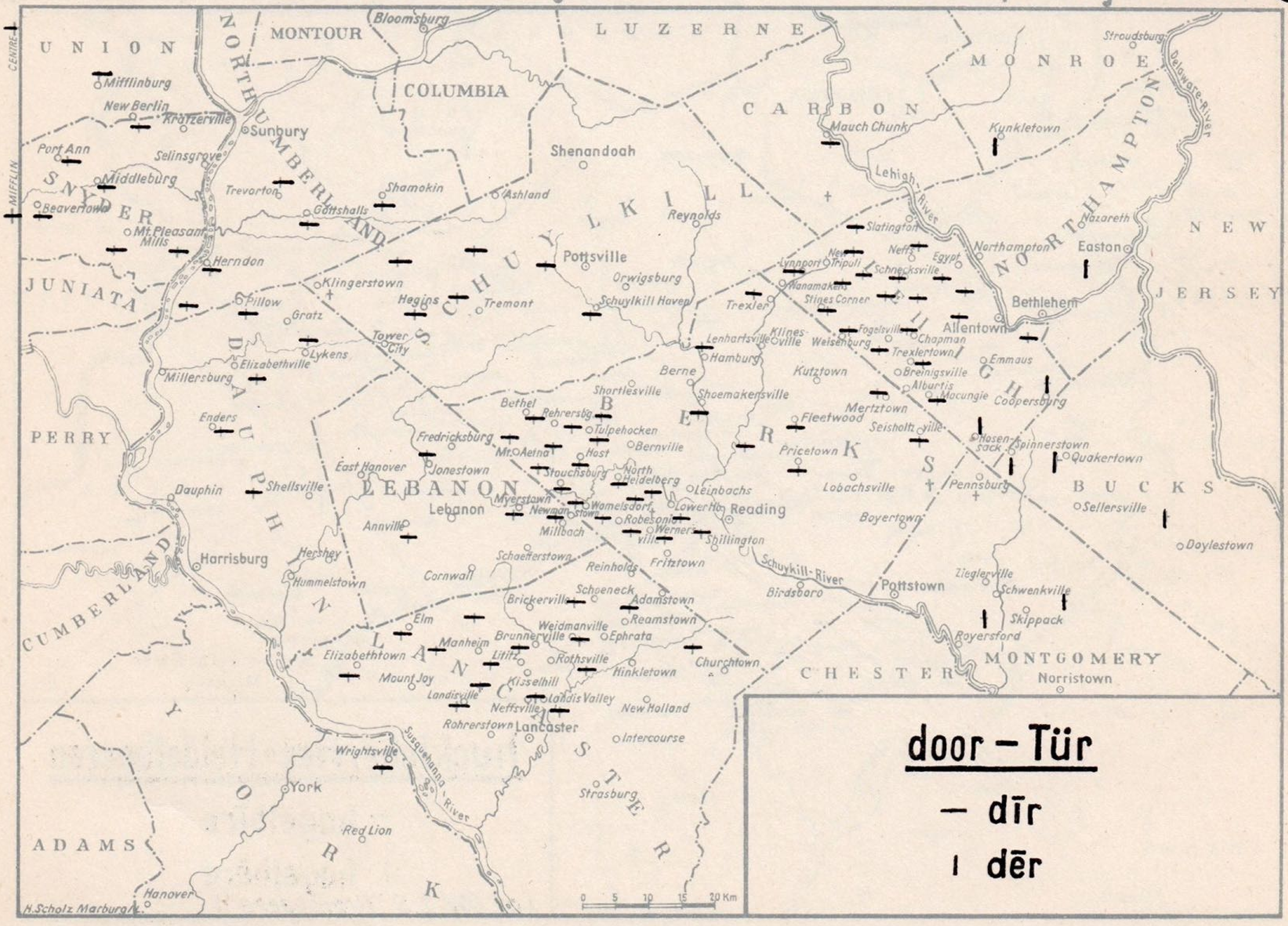

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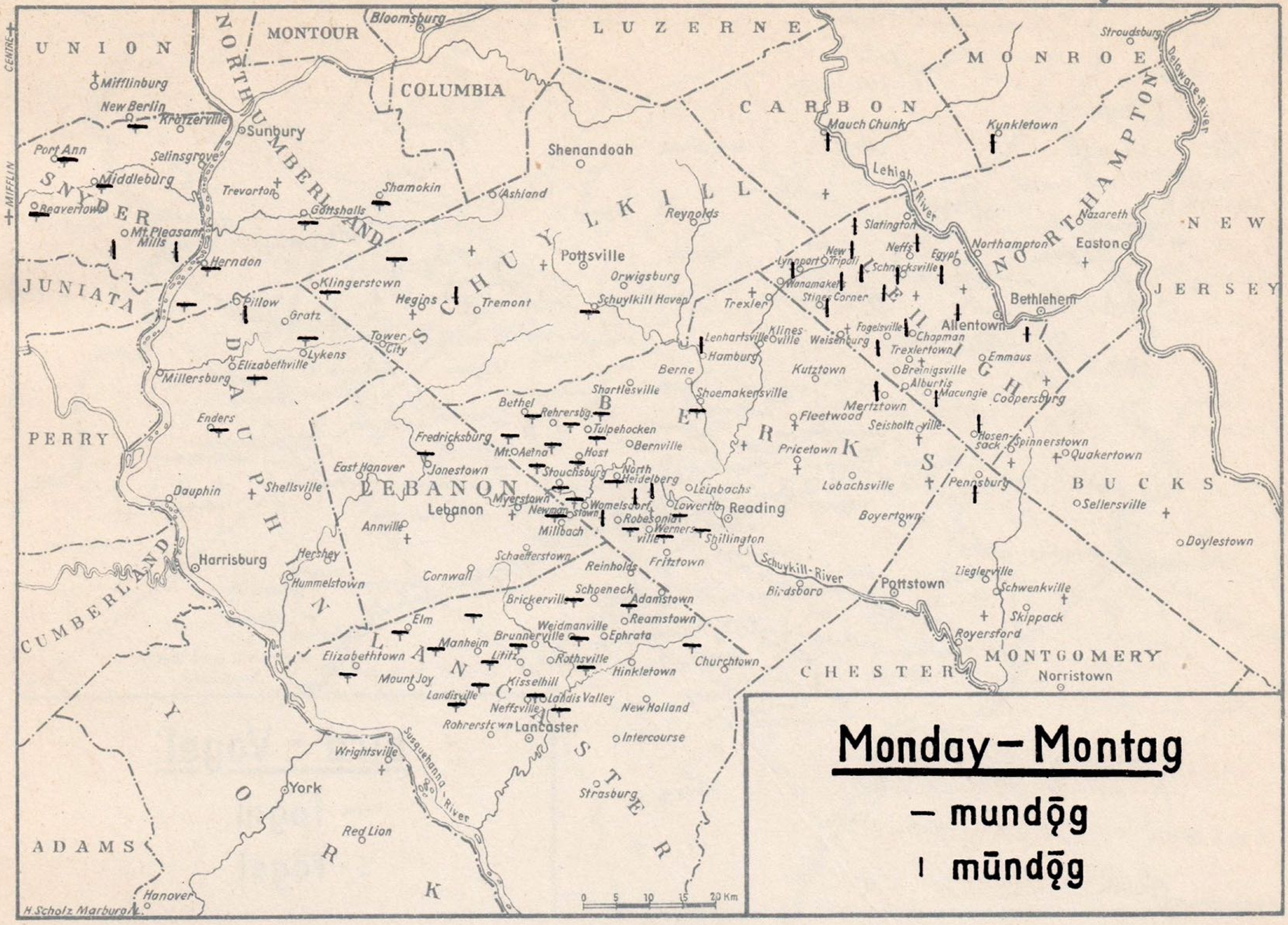

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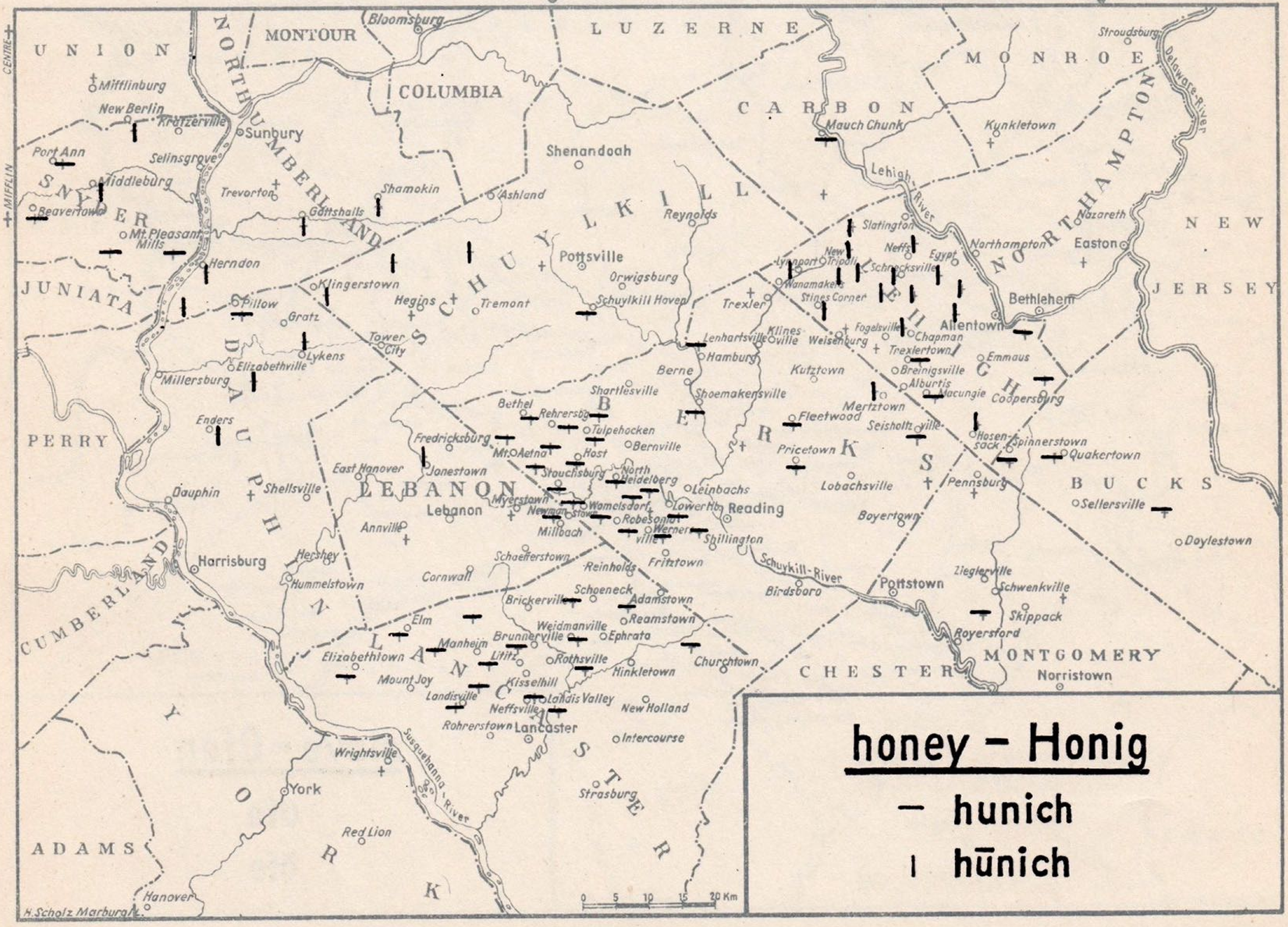
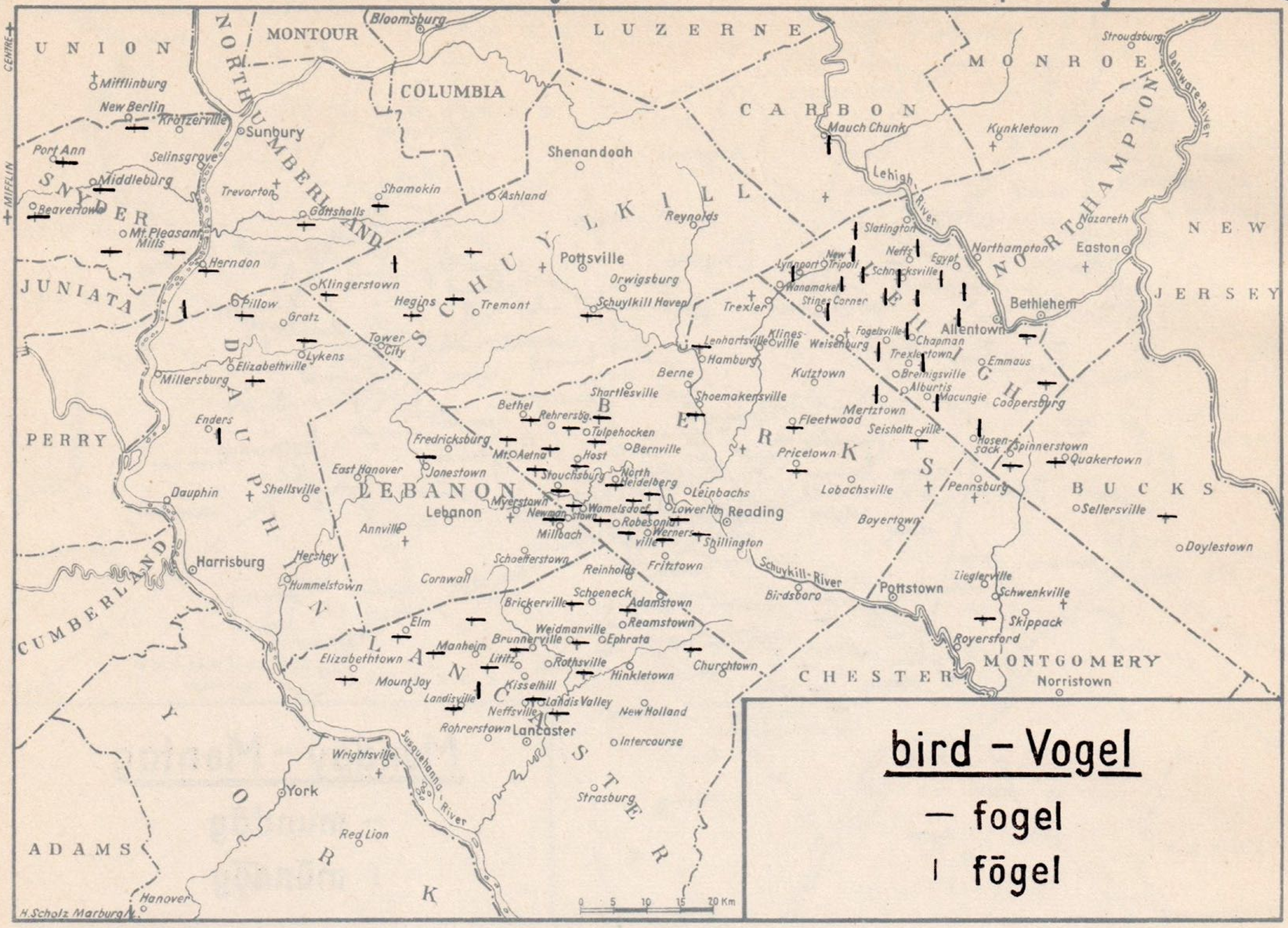


Southeastern Pennsylvania Südostpennsylvanien ㉒



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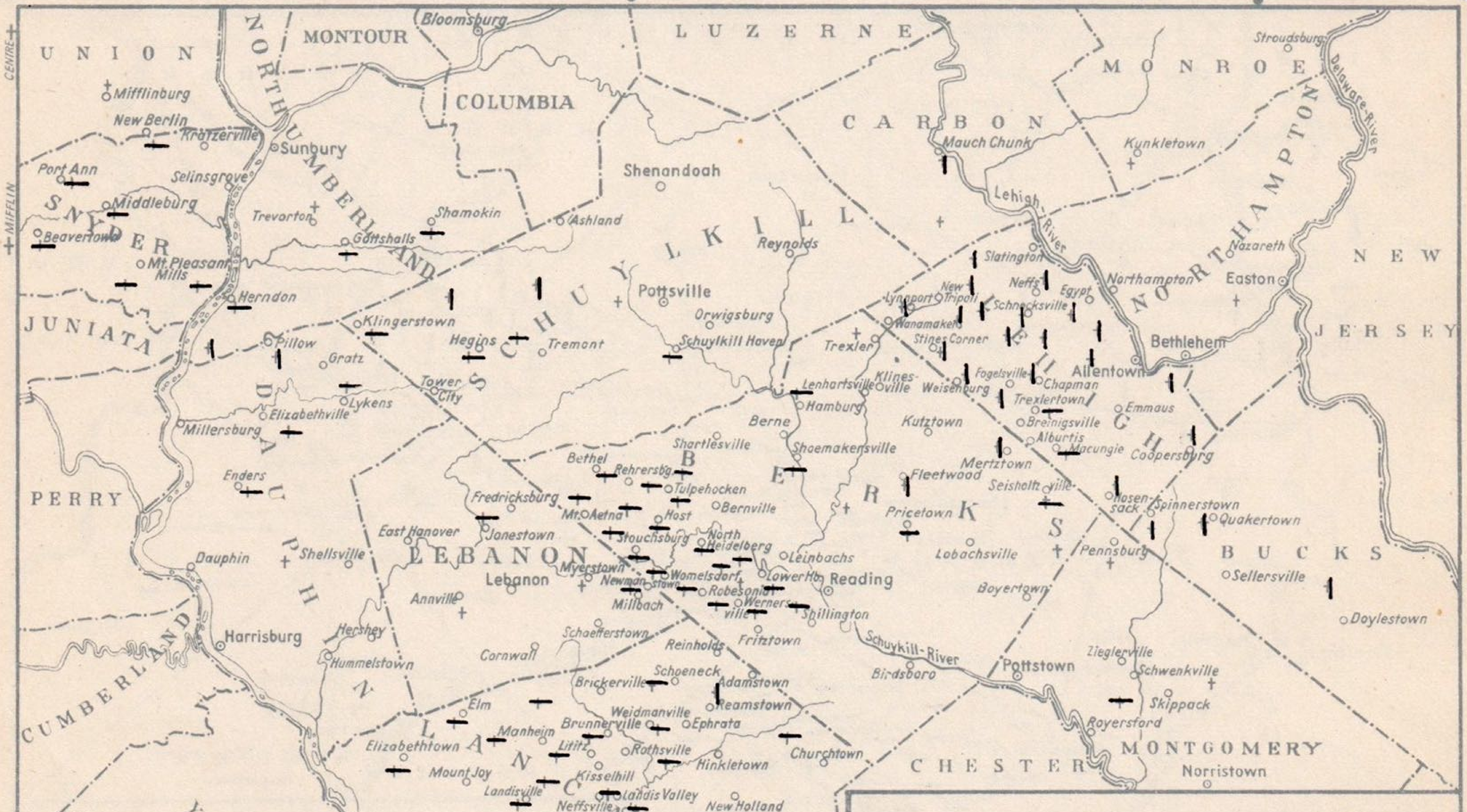

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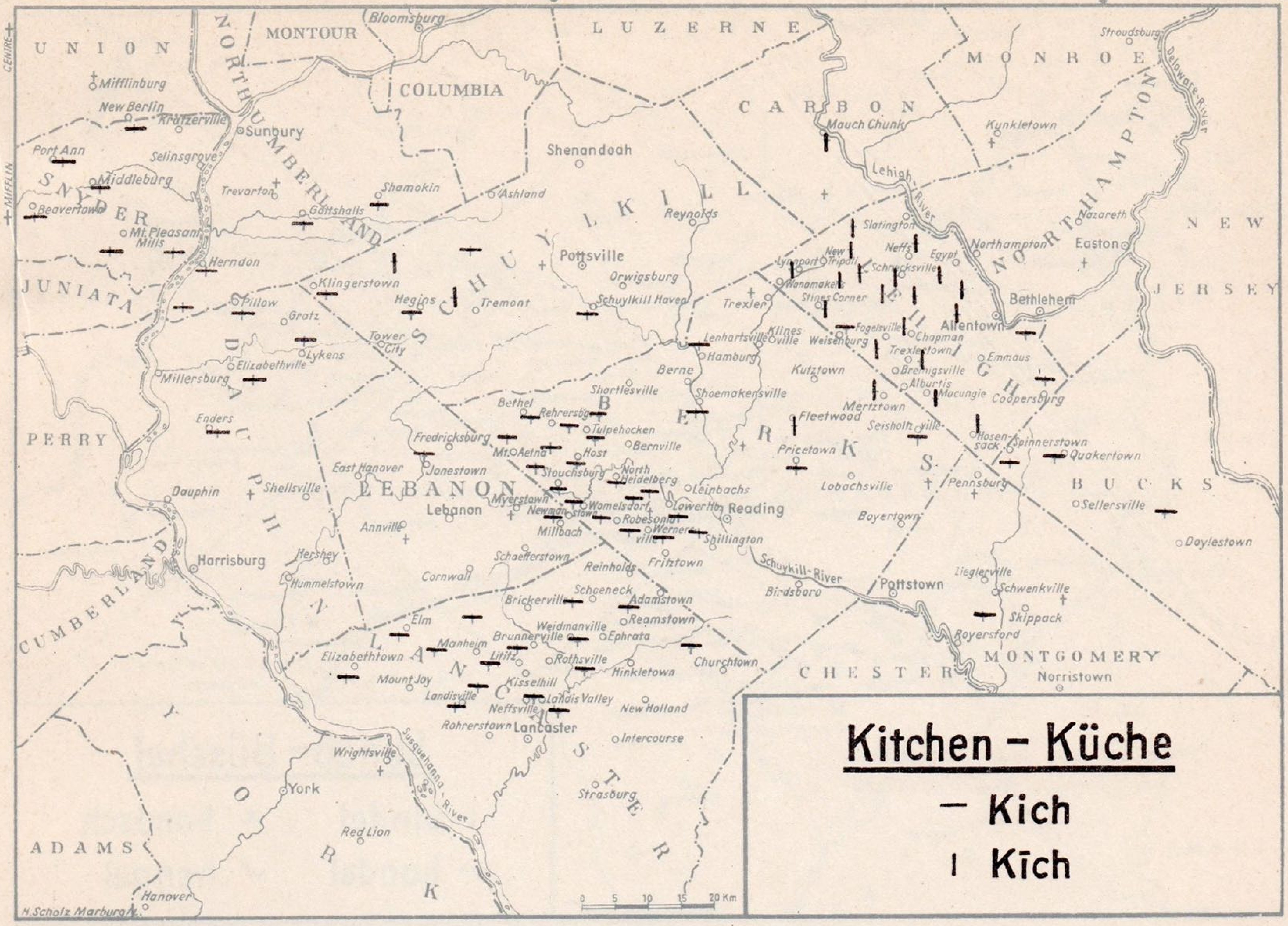

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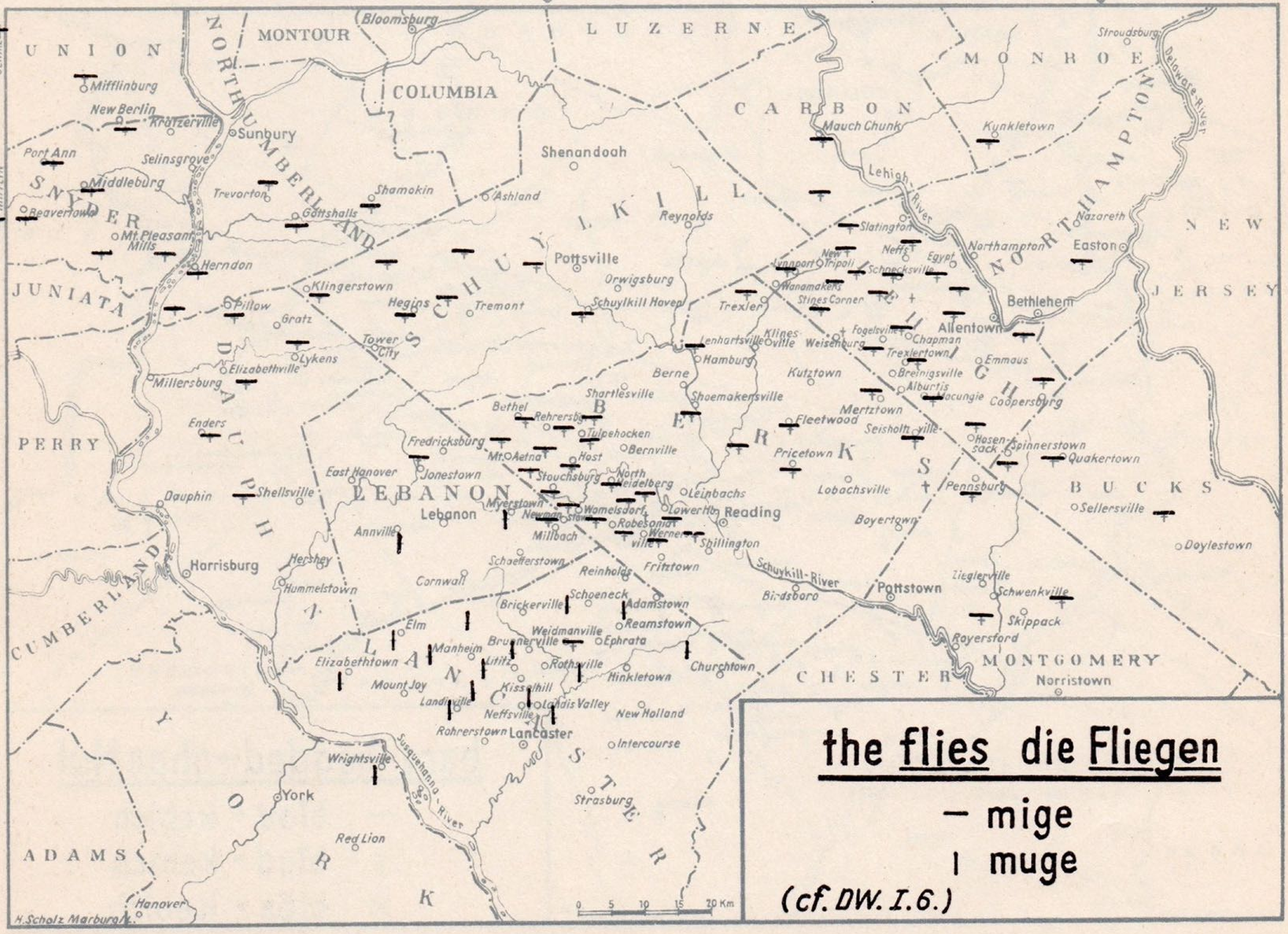

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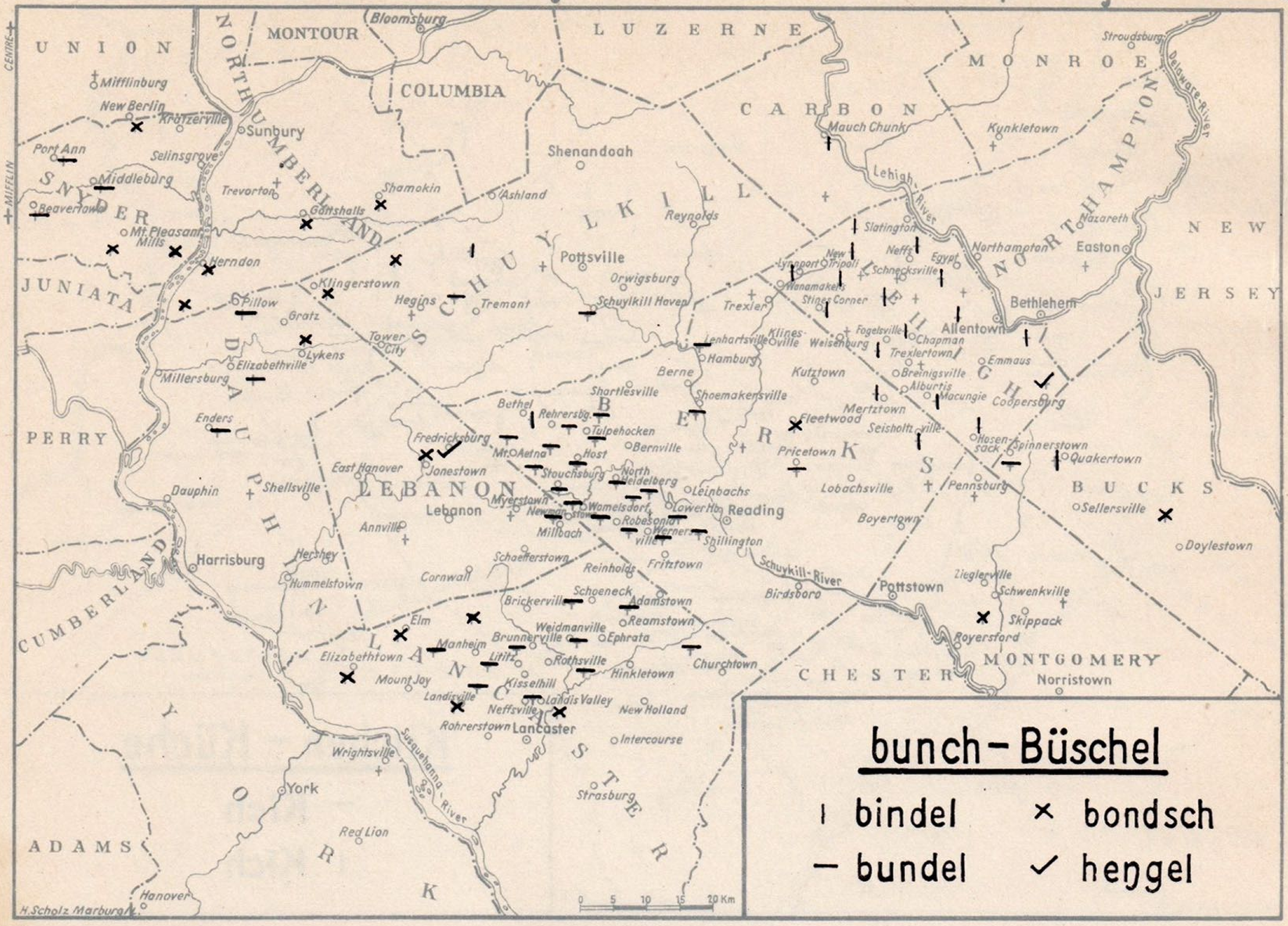

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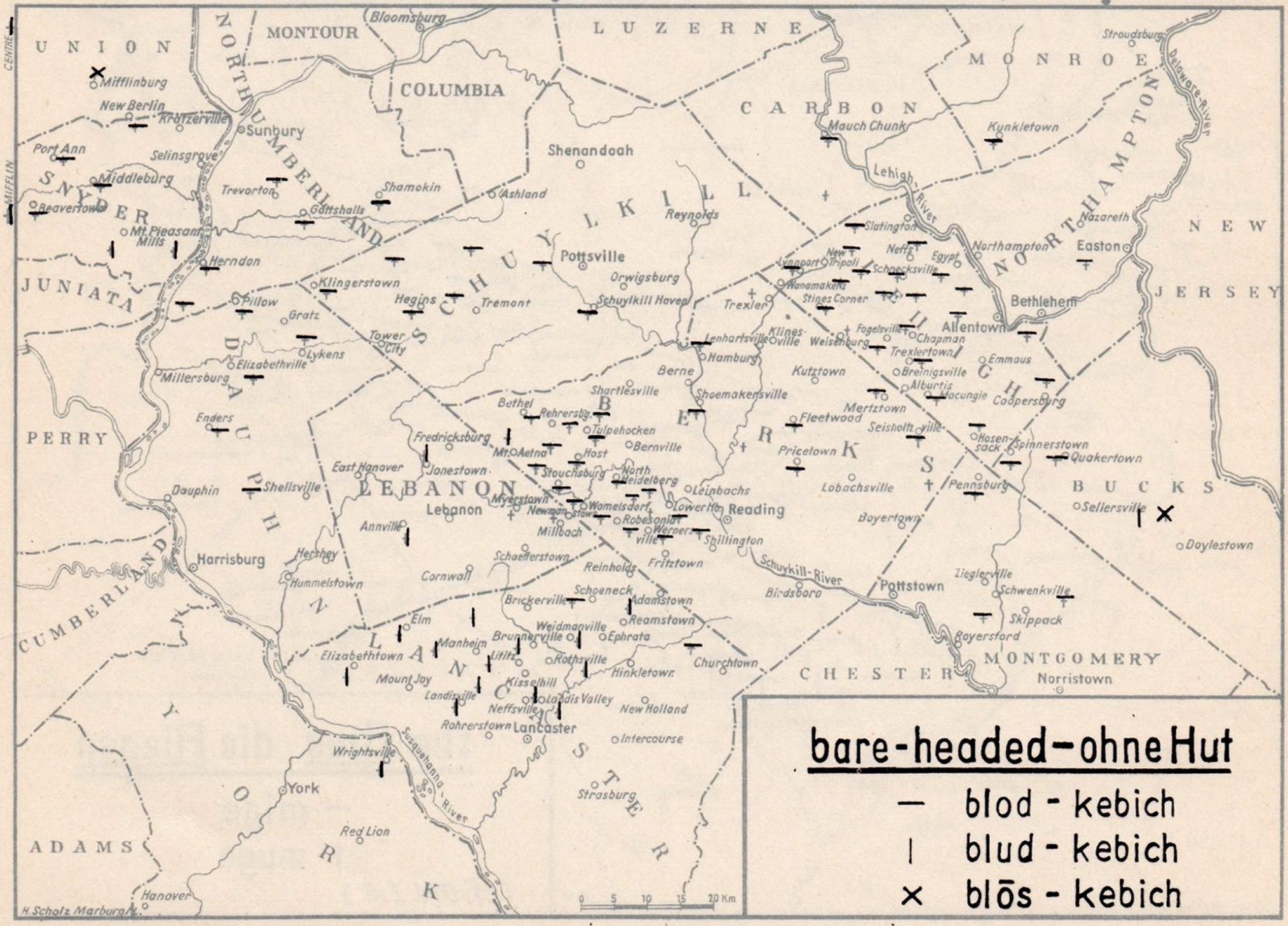

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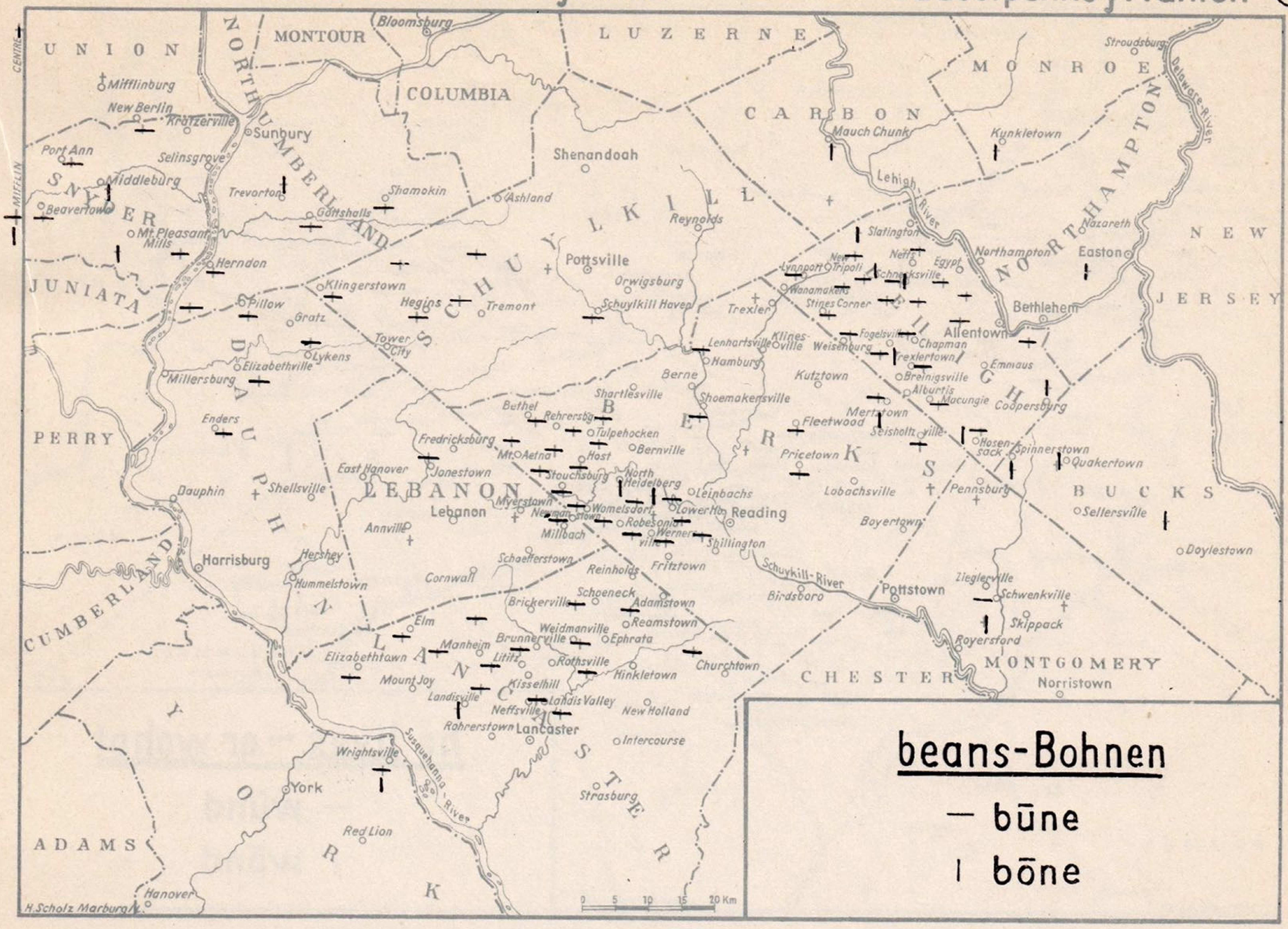

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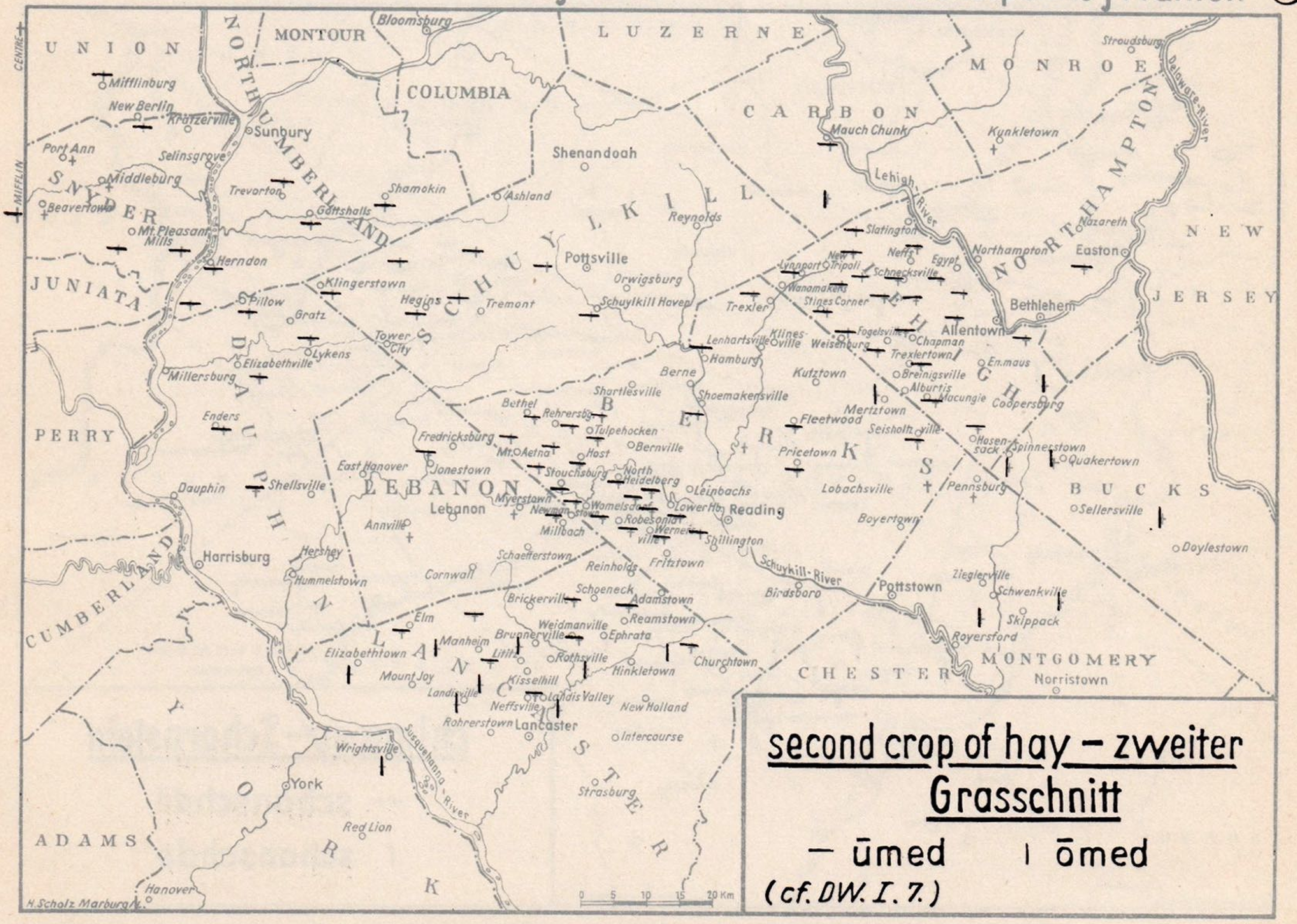

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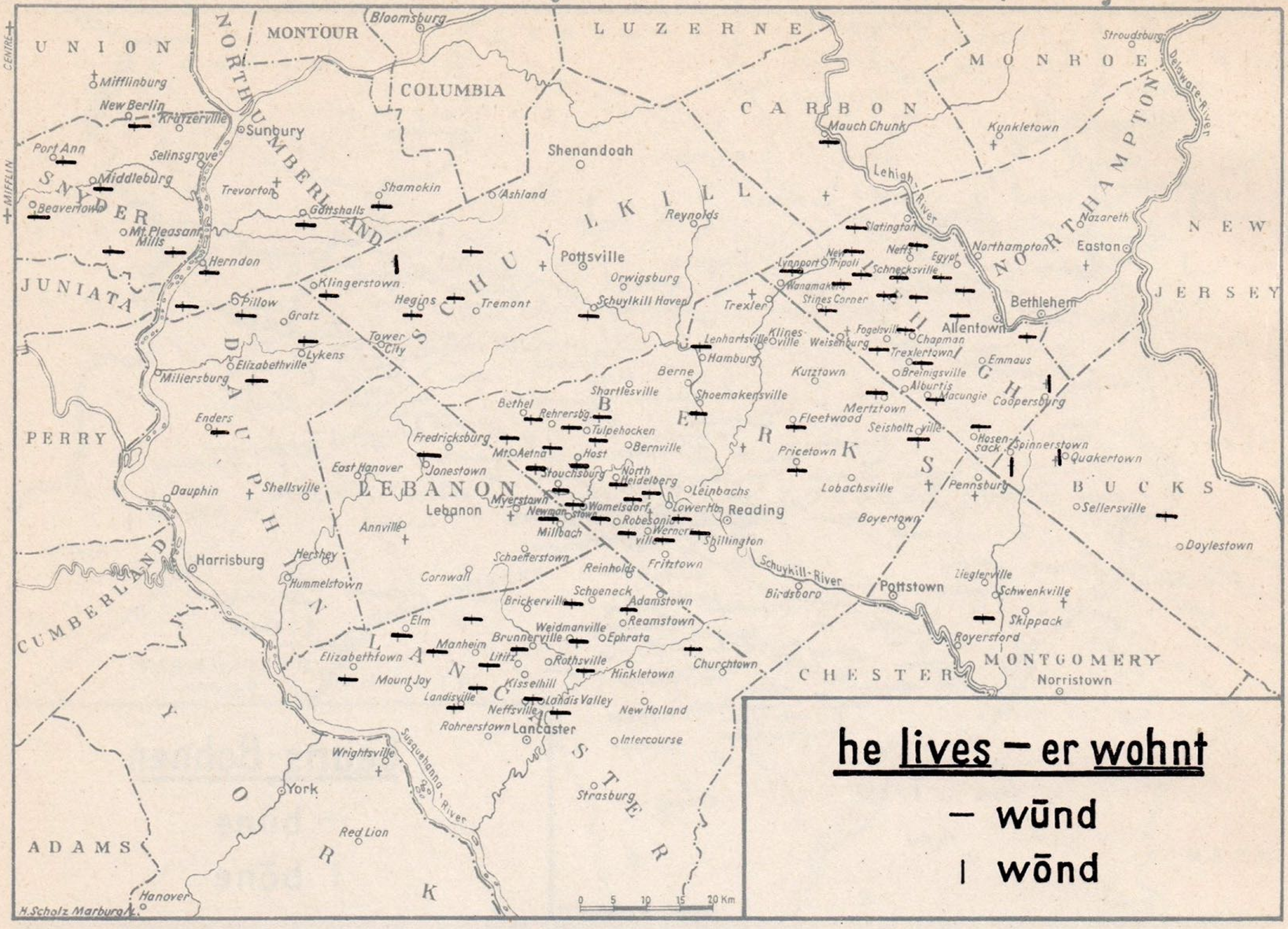

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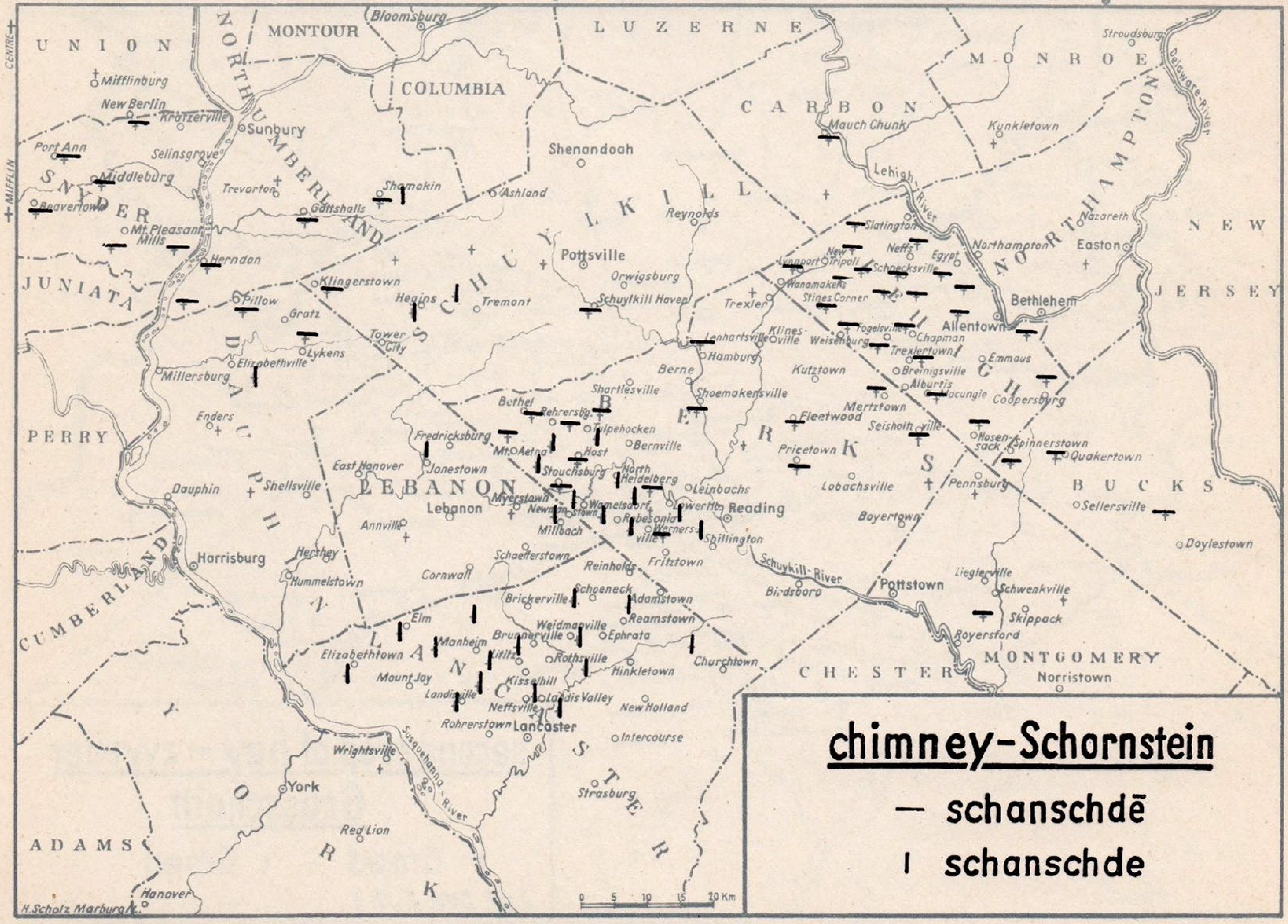

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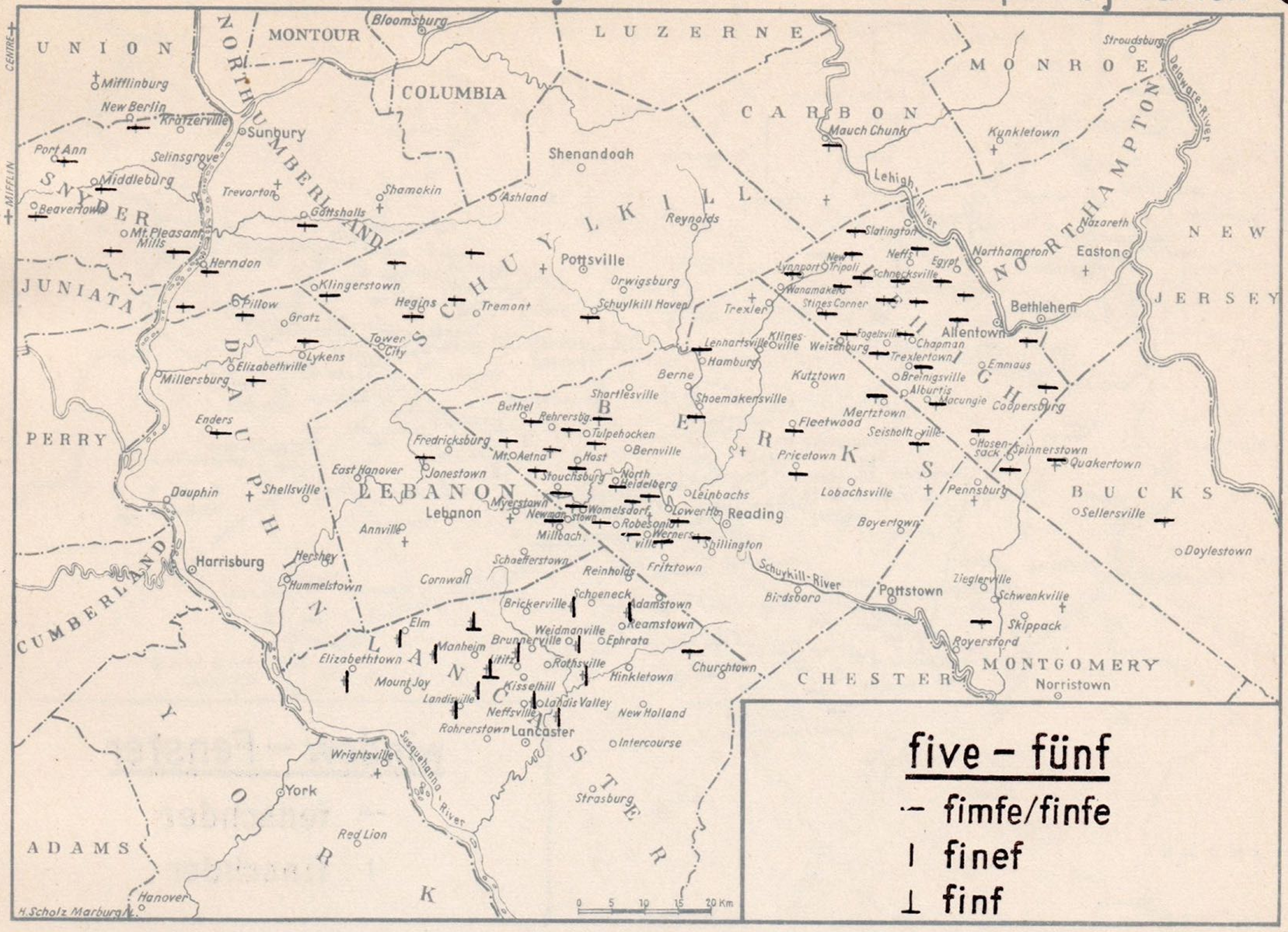

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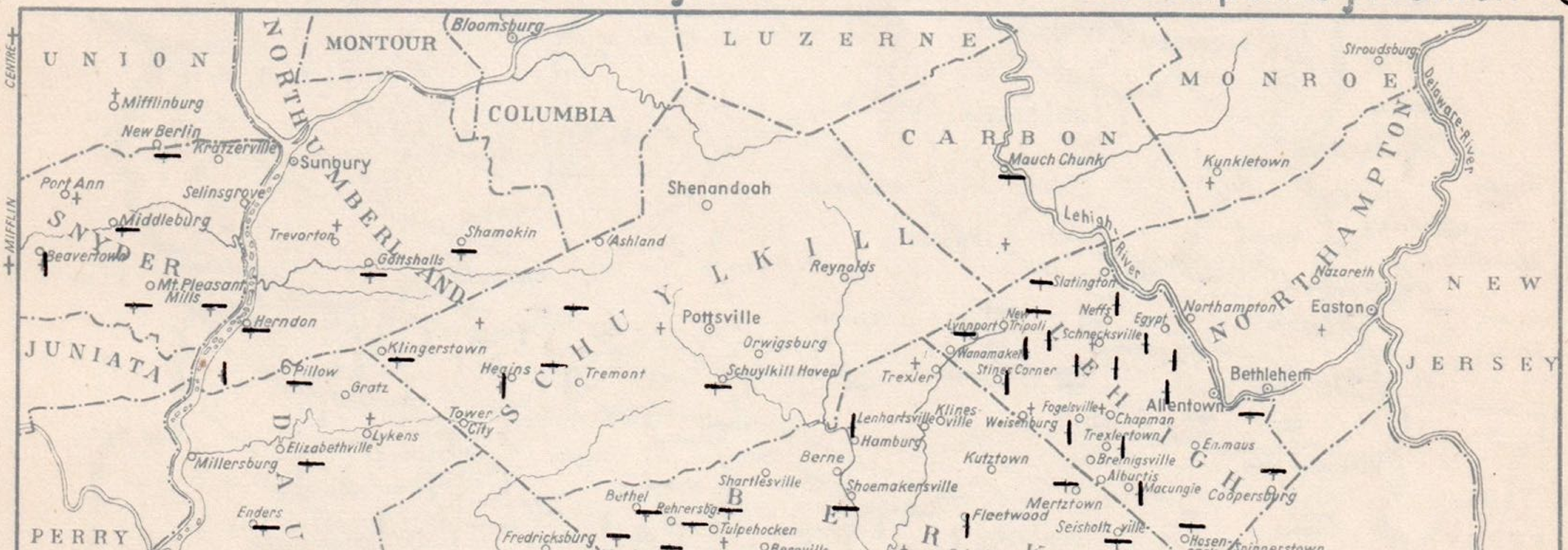

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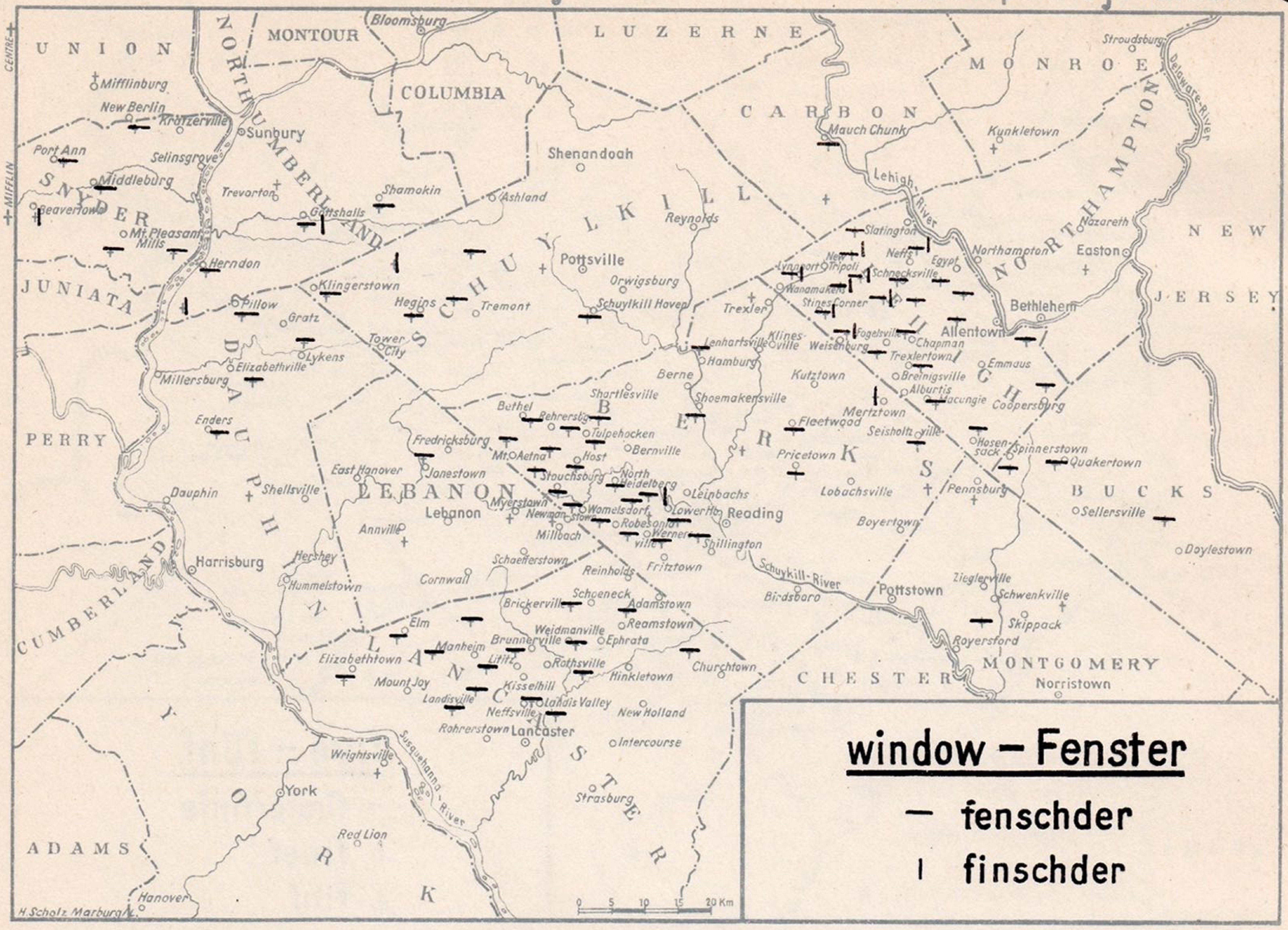

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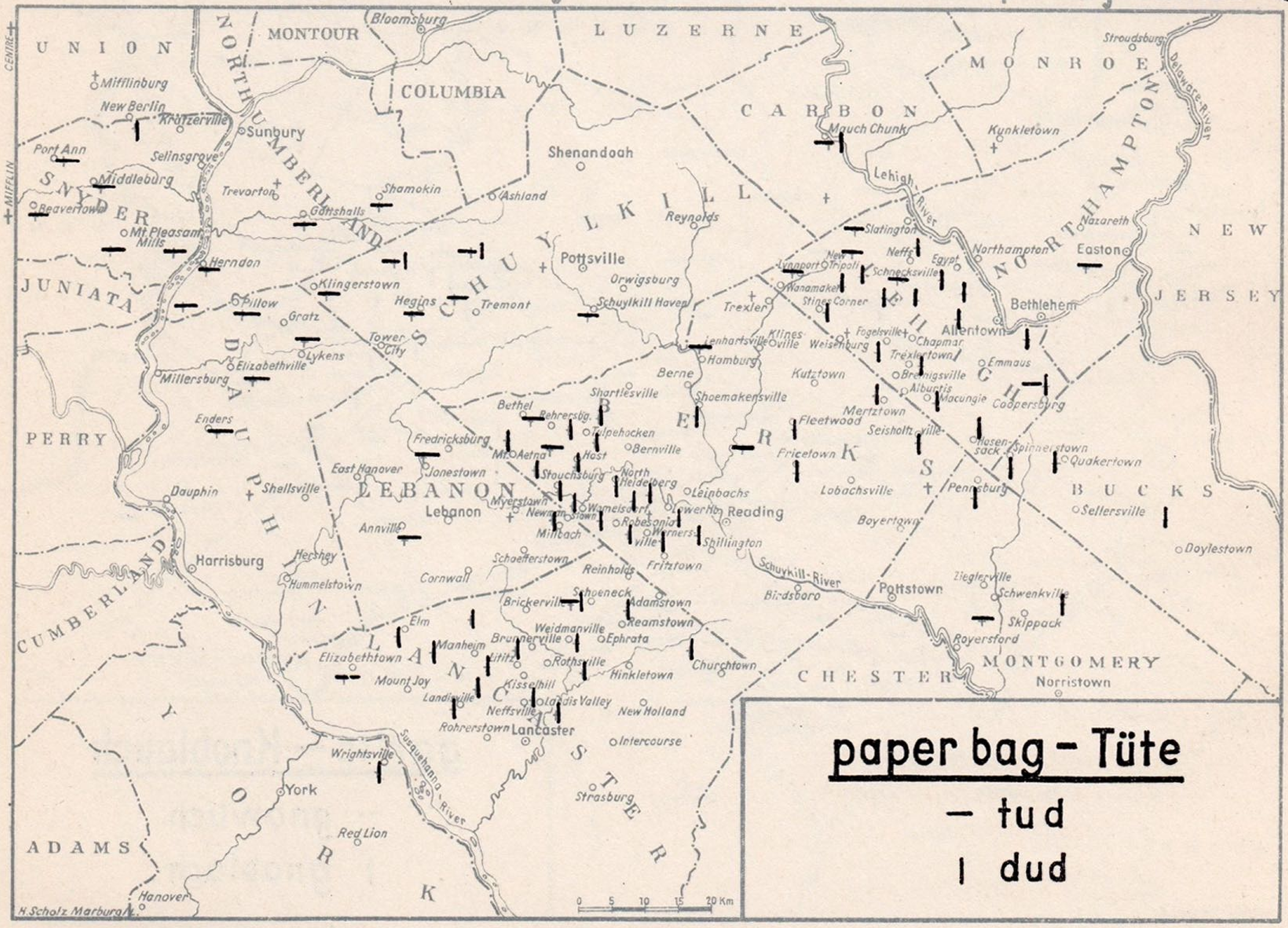

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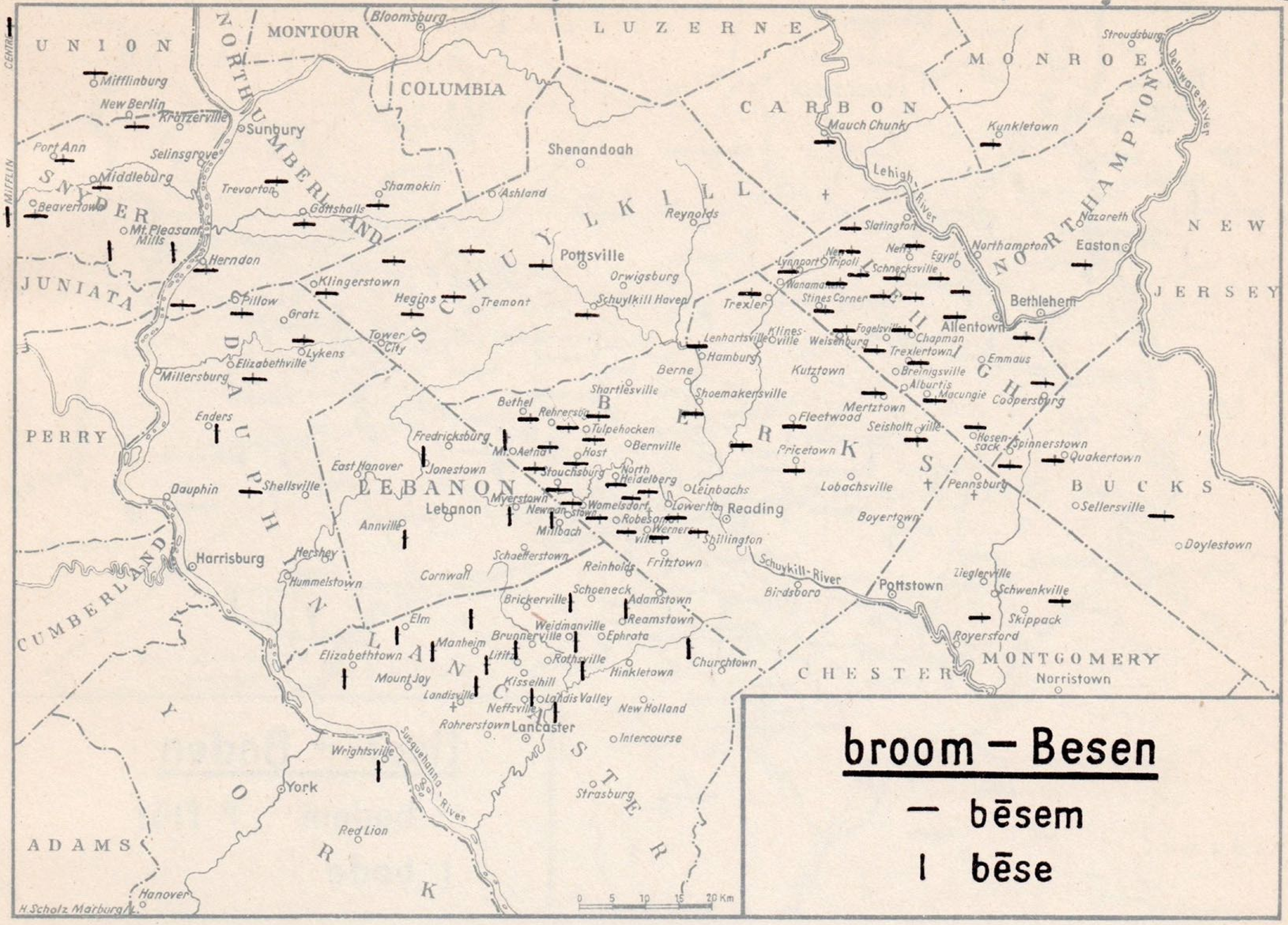
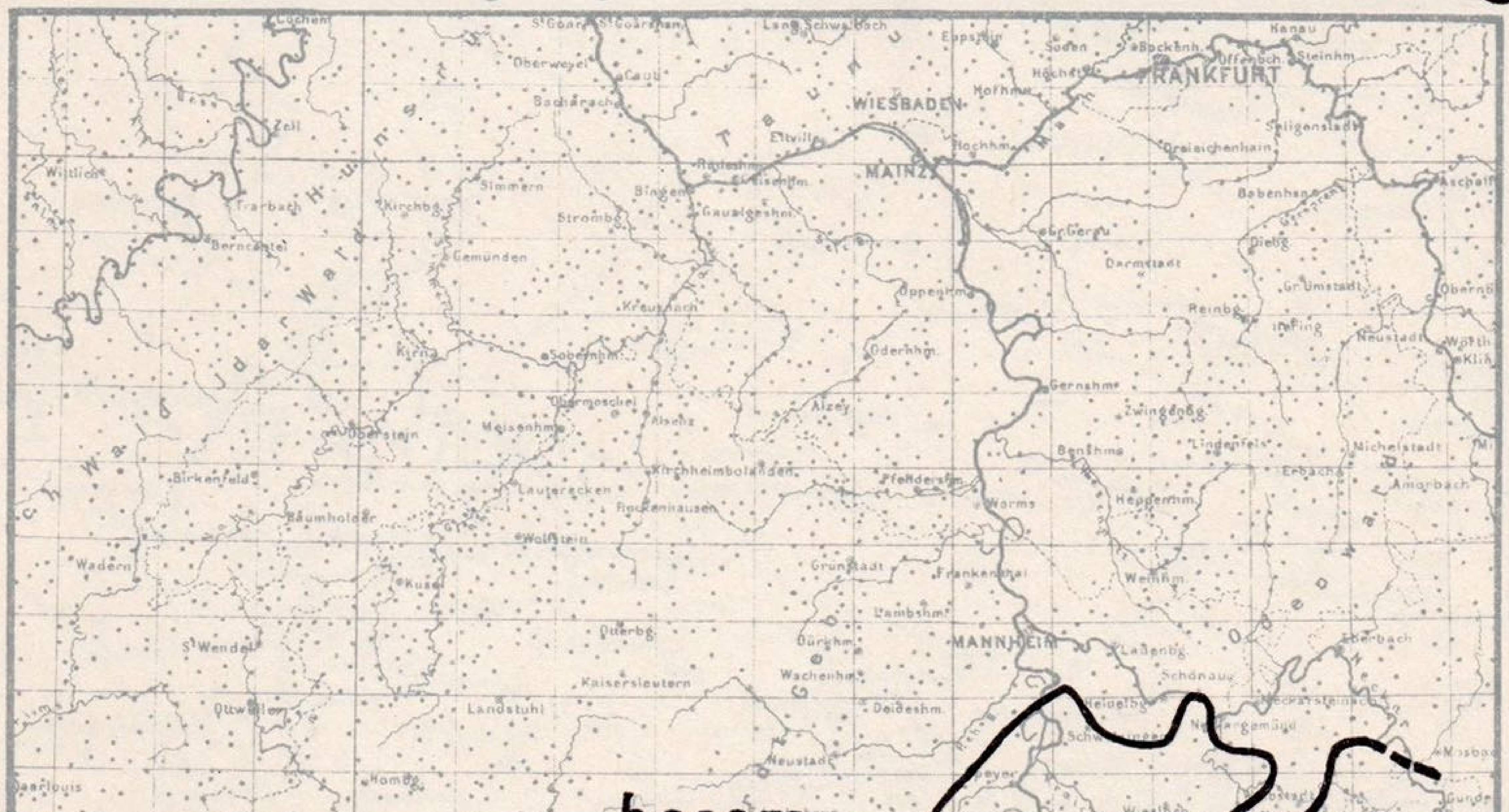


Southwestern Germany (Linguistic Atlas) - Südwest-Deutschland (DSA.) (36)a



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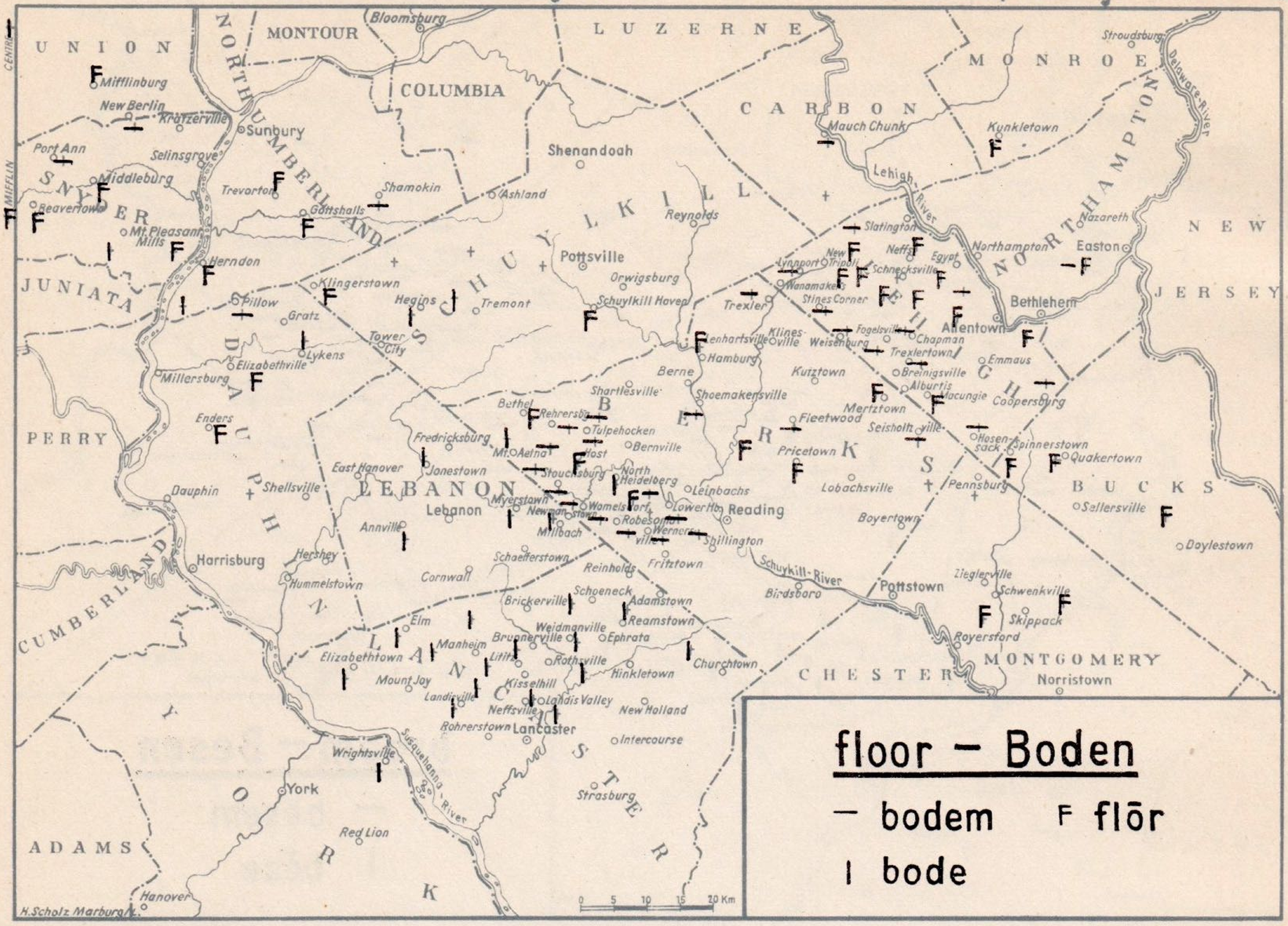

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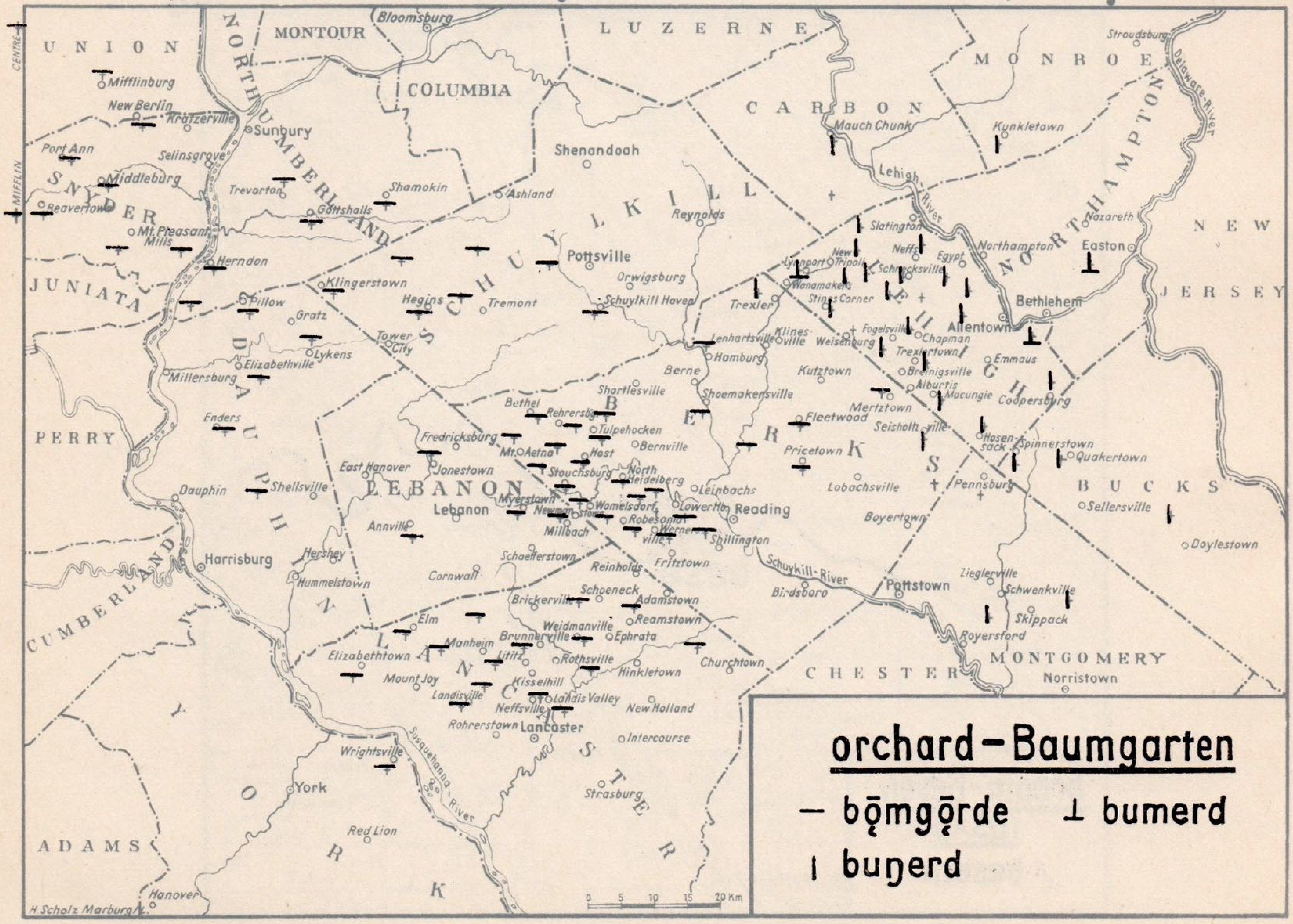

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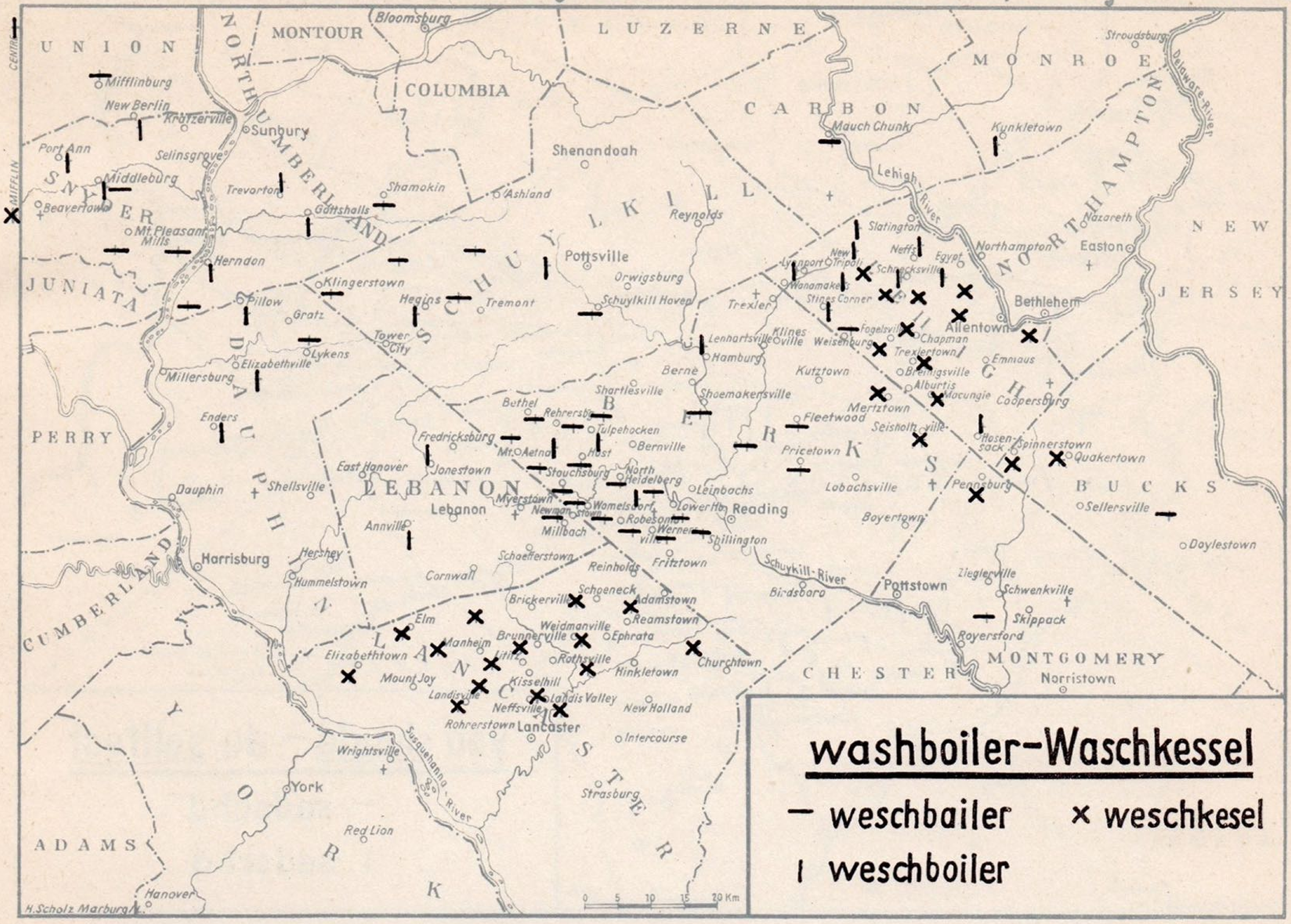
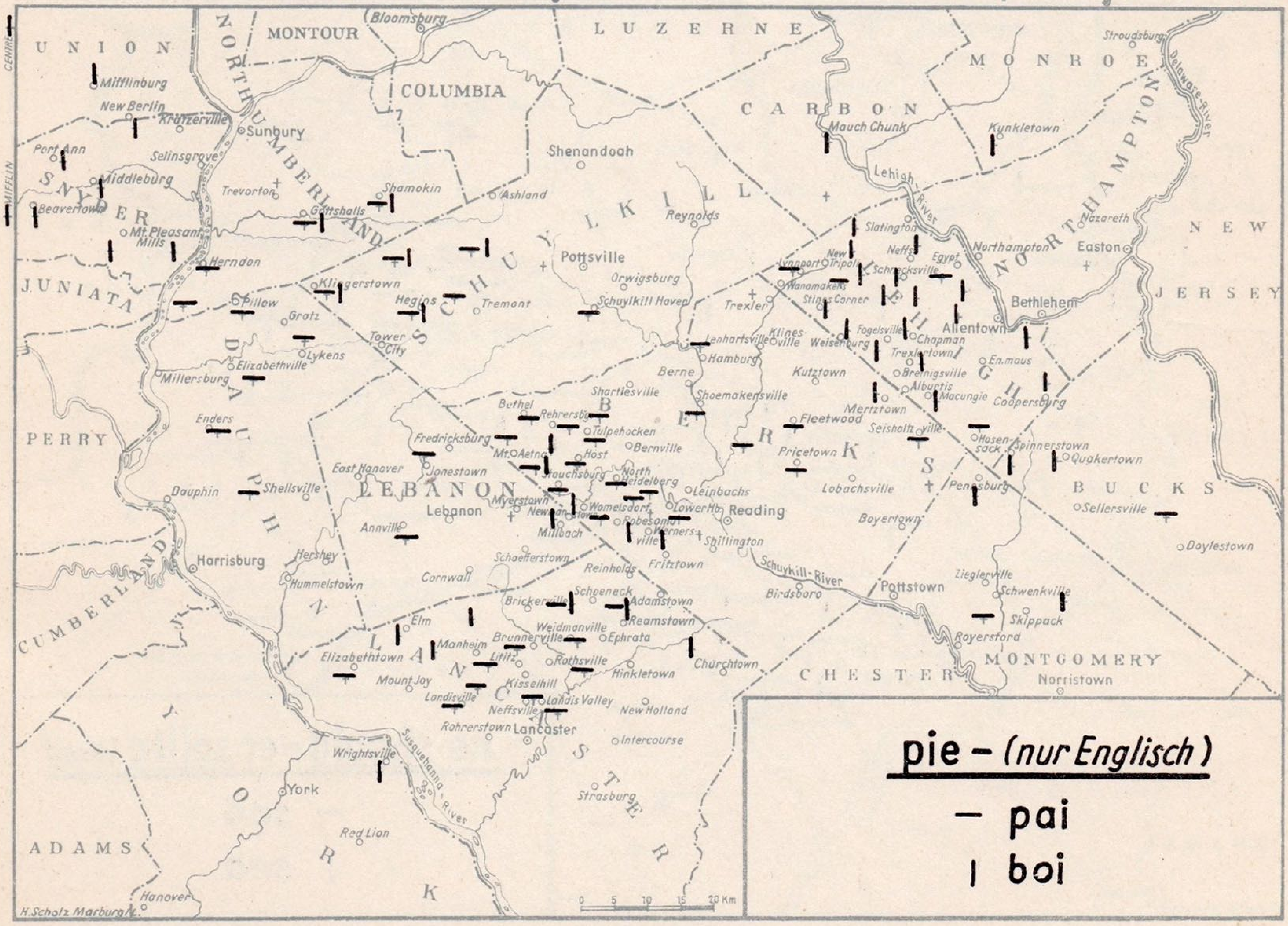
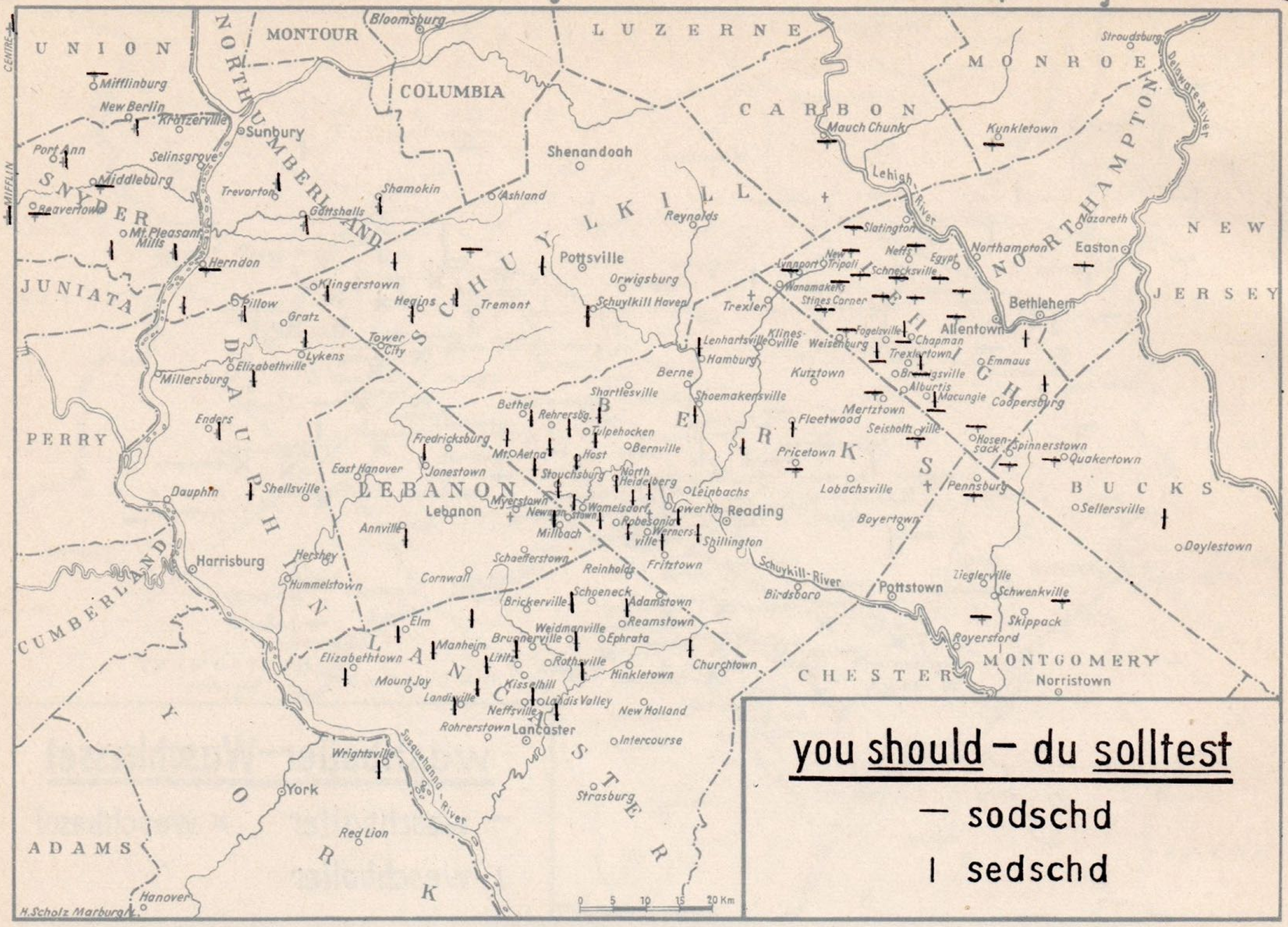


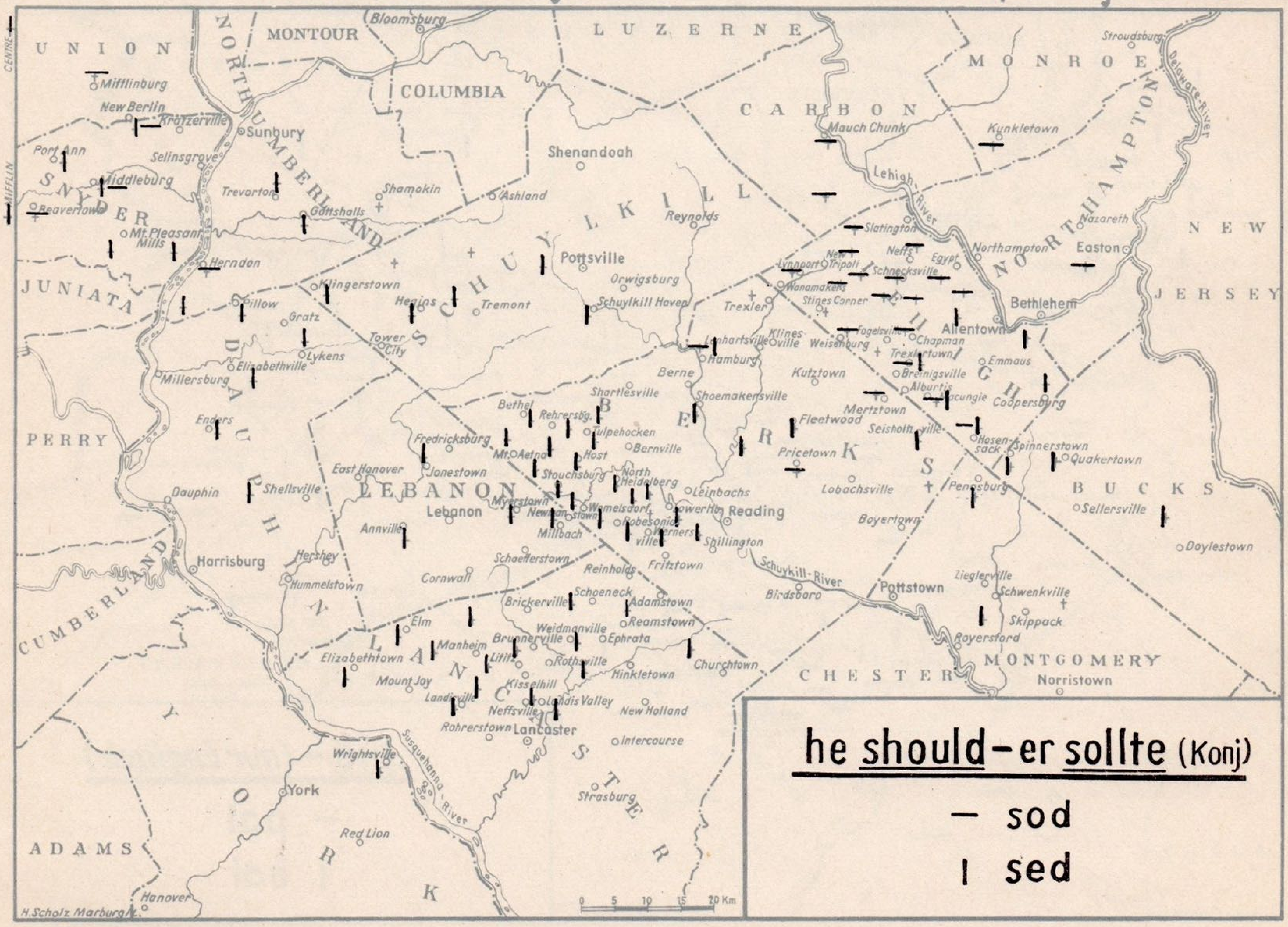
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (40)



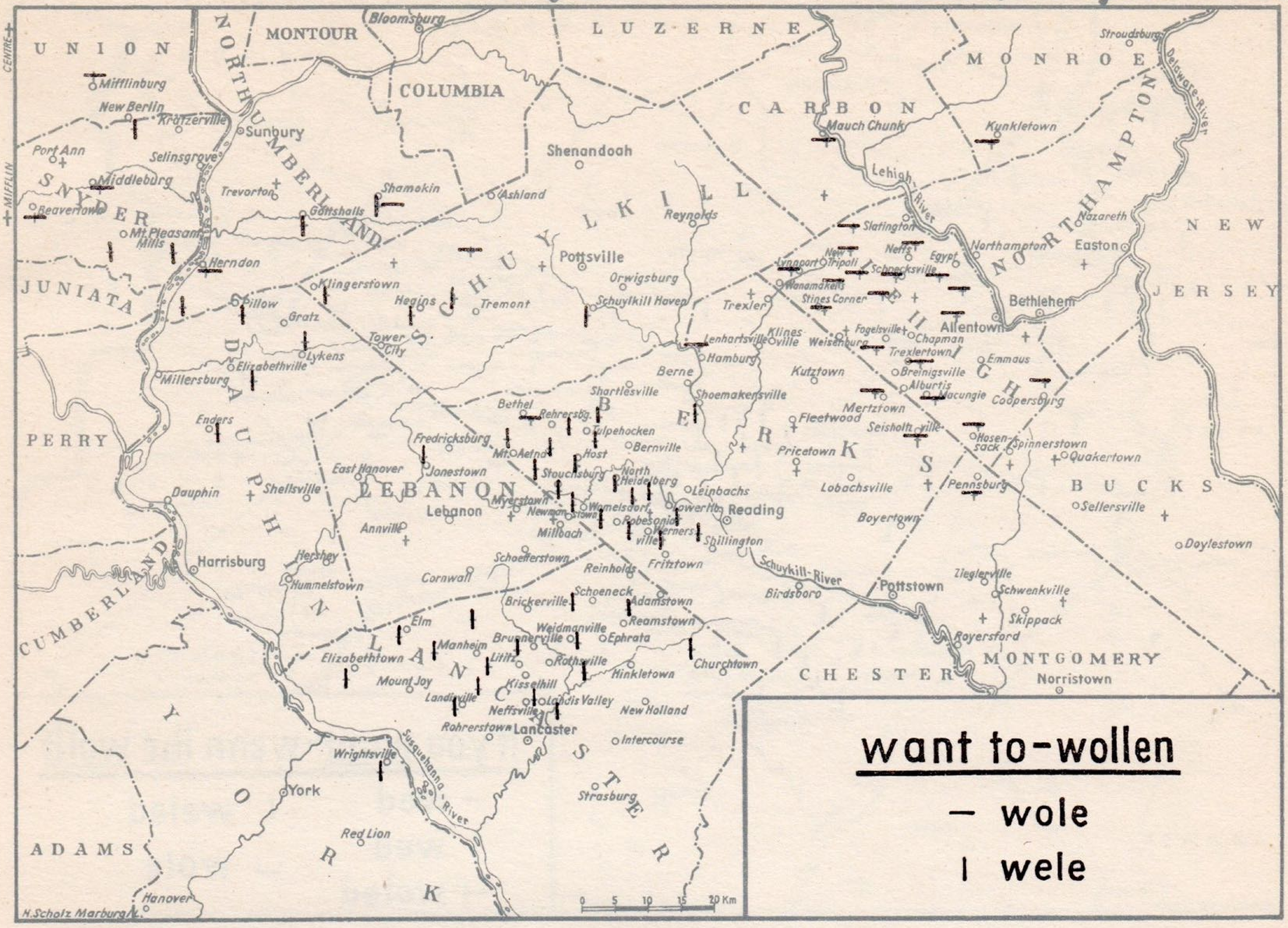
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (41)



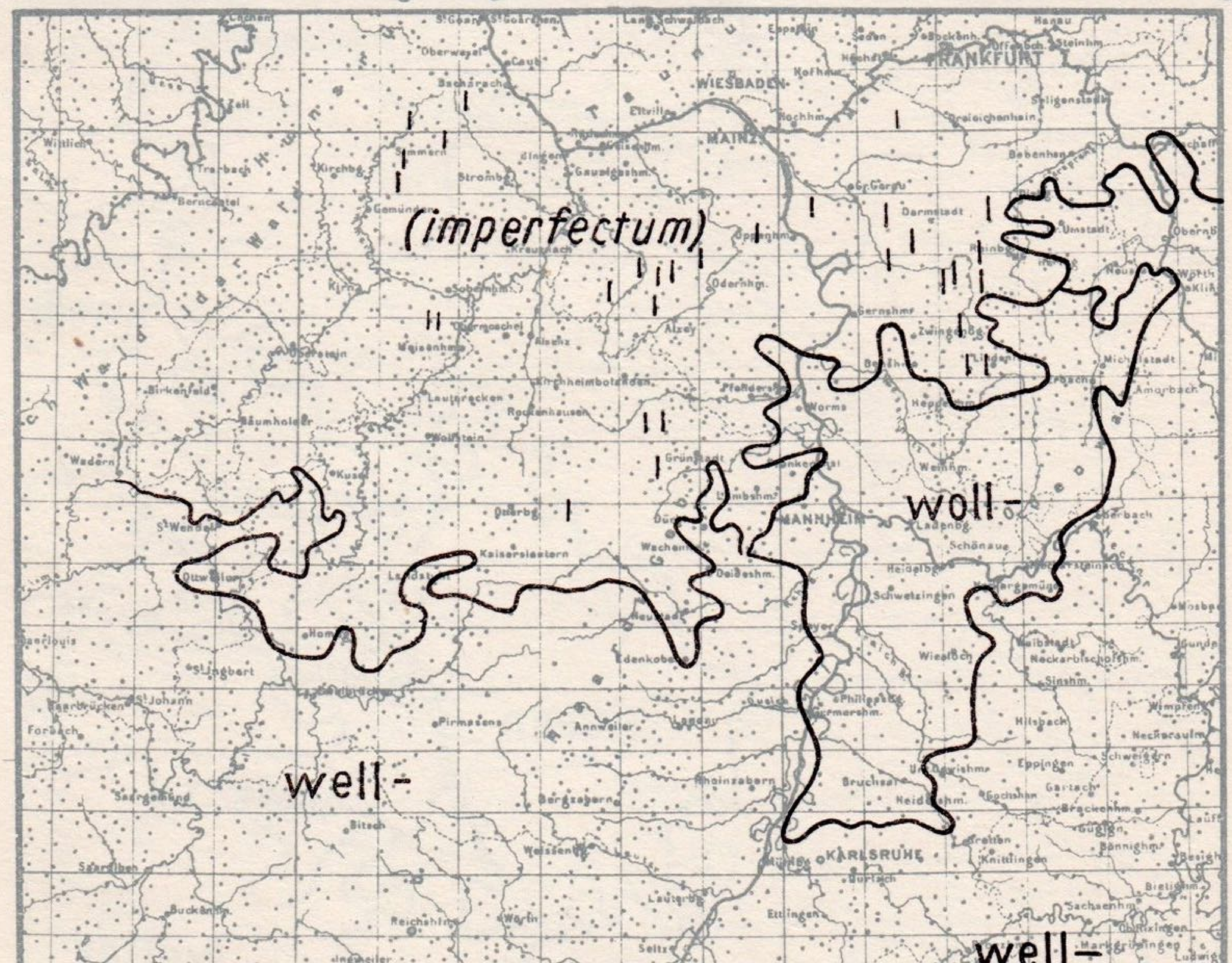
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (42)



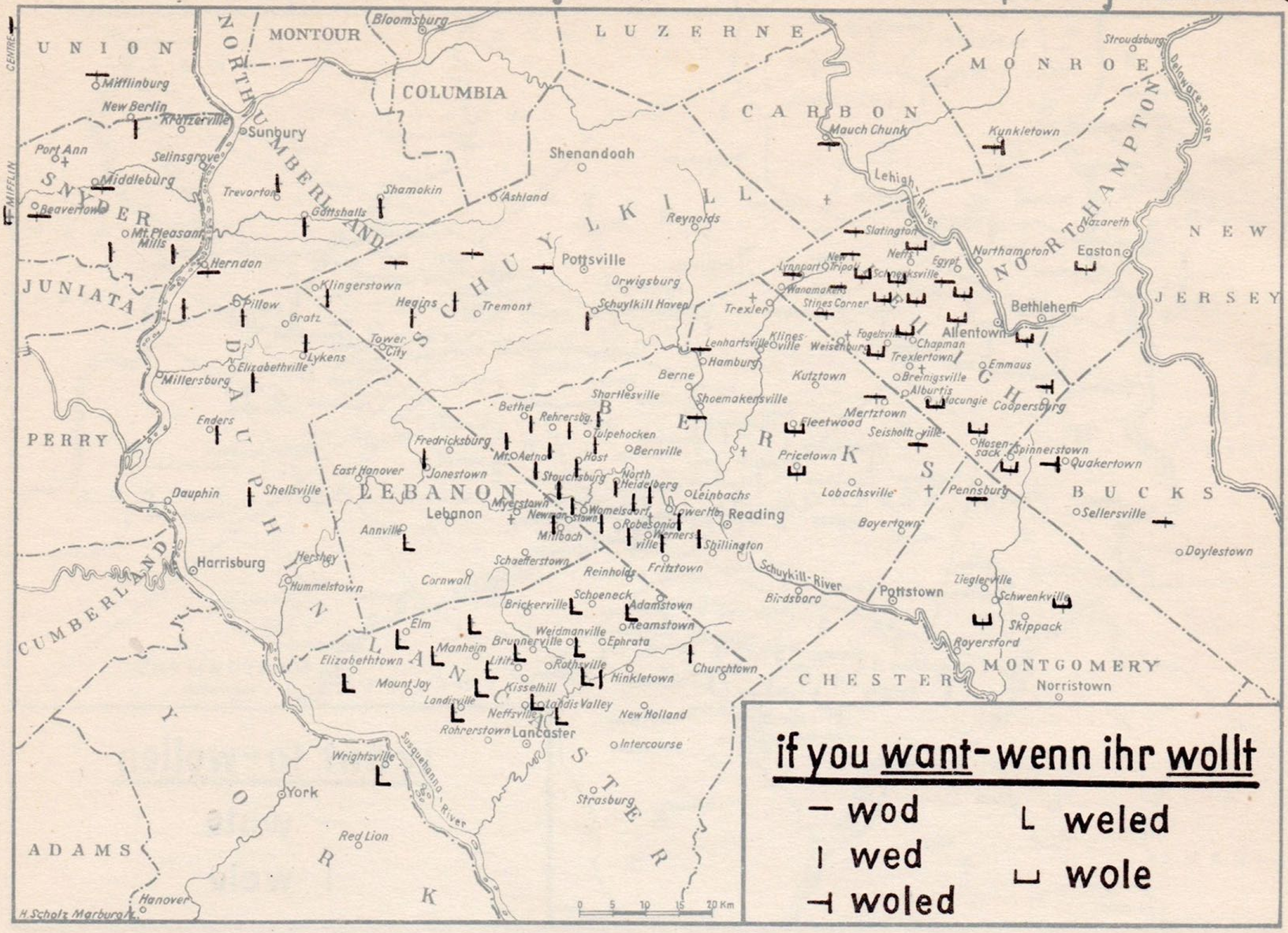
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien



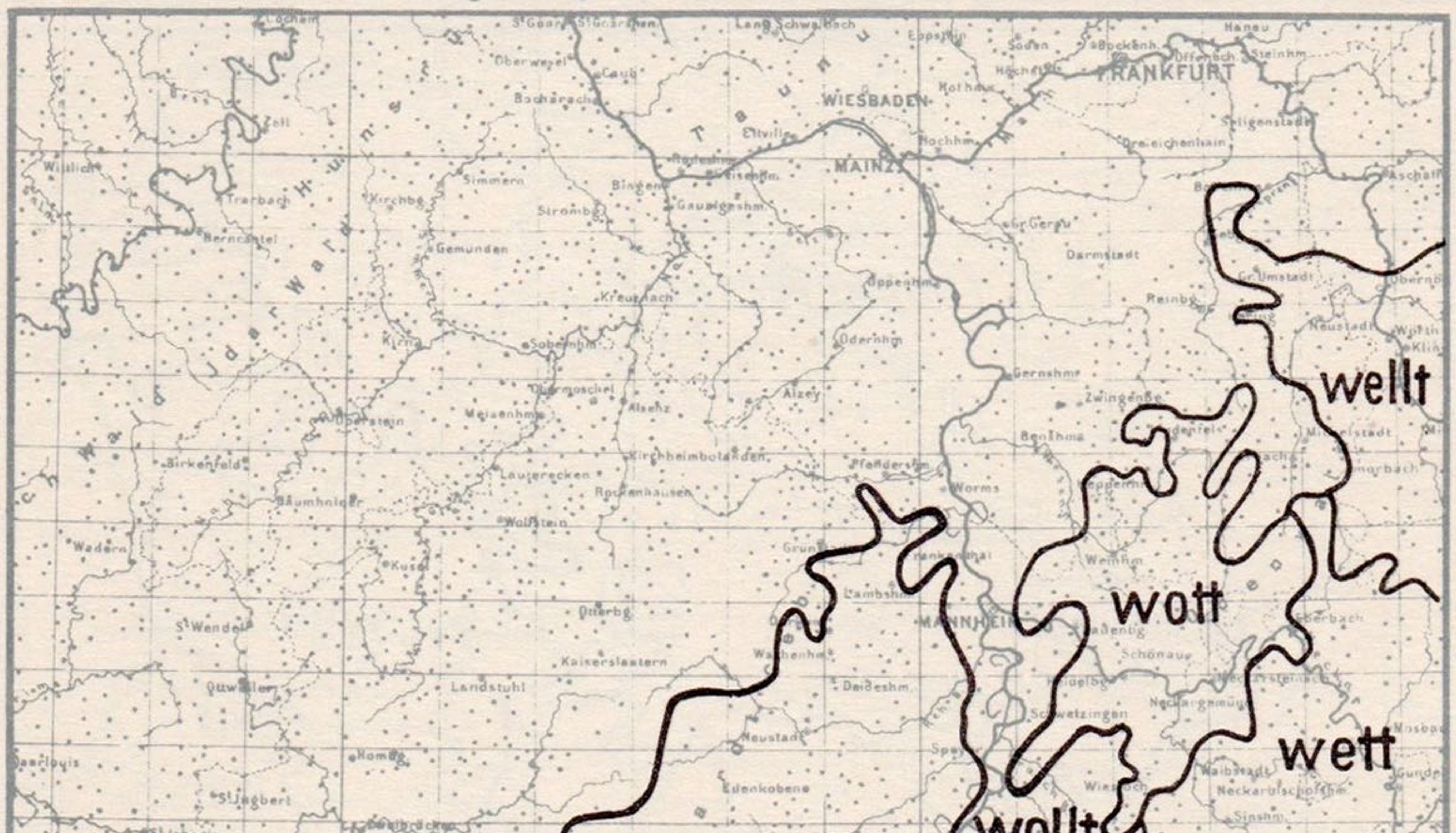
Southwestern Germany (Linguistic Atlas) - Südwest-Deutschland (DSA) 43a



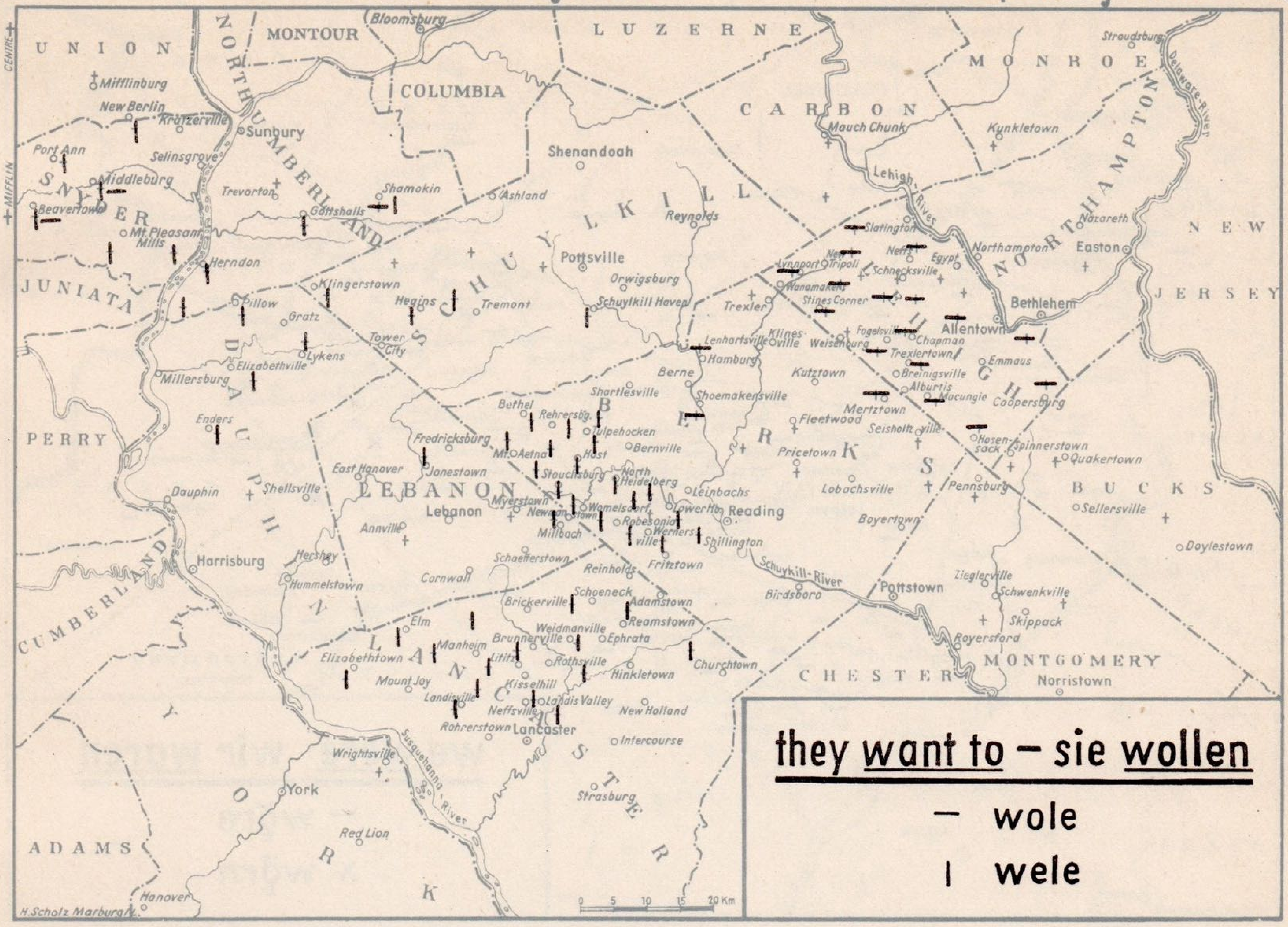
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien



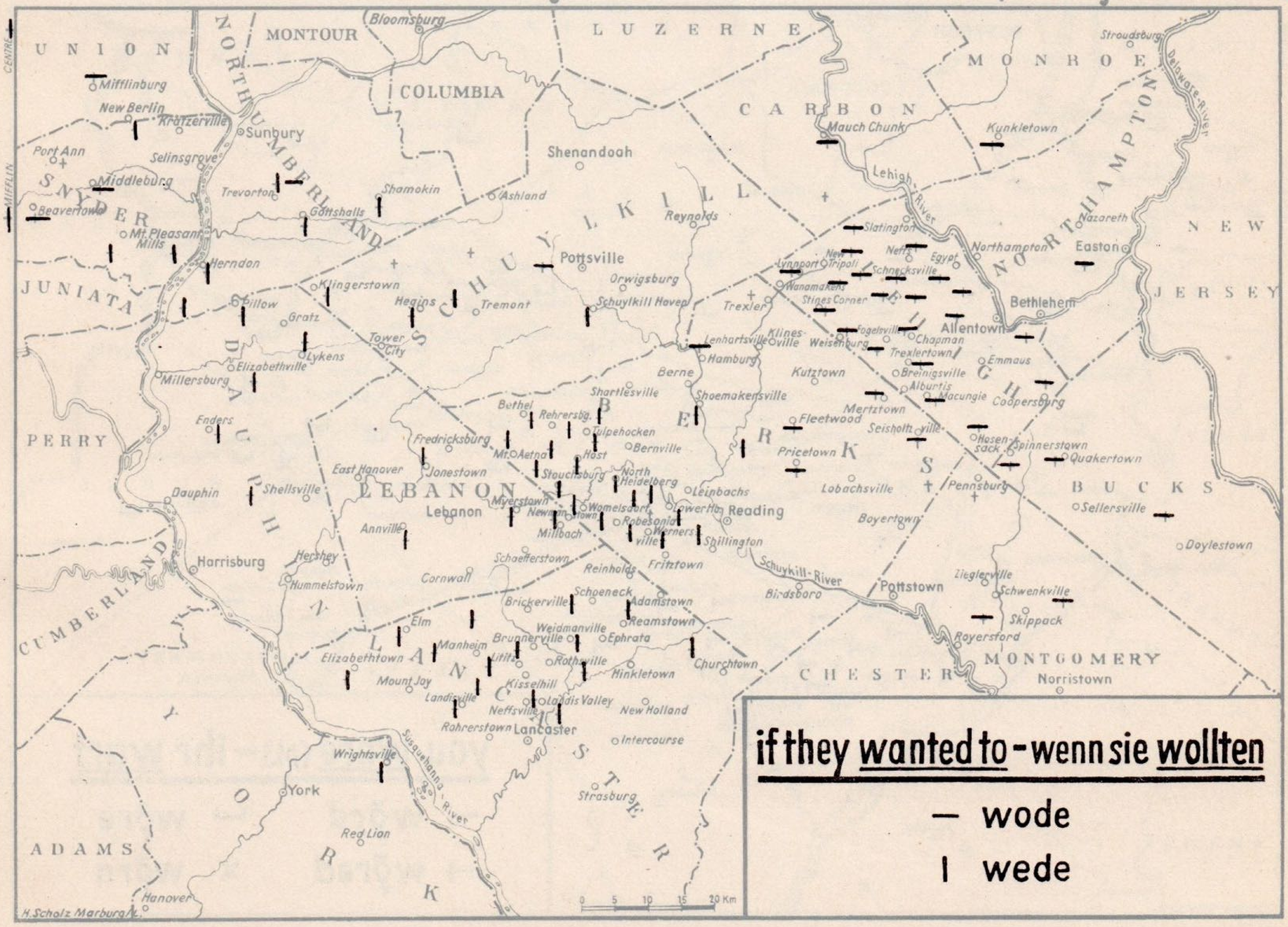
Southwestern Germany (Linguistic Atlas) - Südwest-Deutschland (DSA) 44a



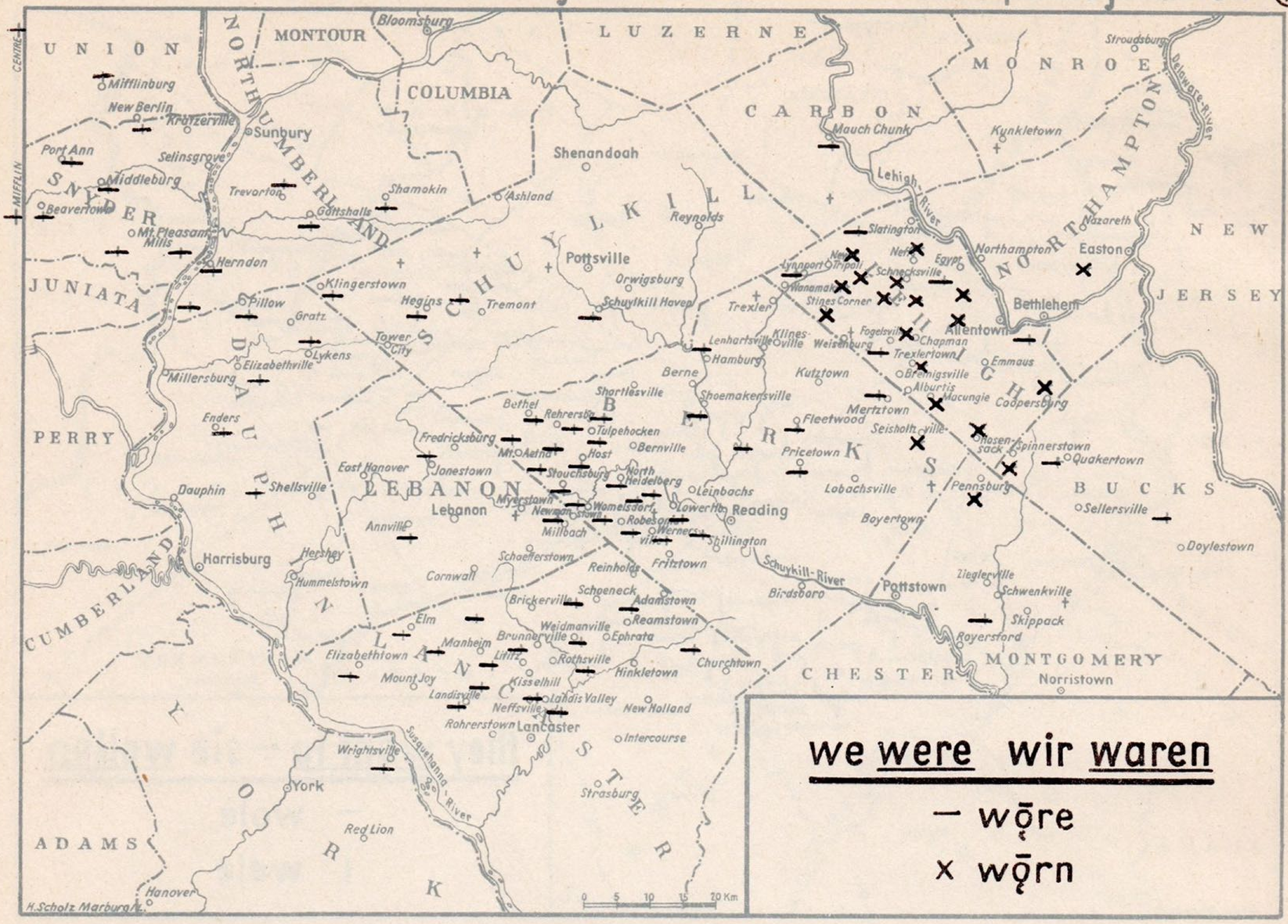
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (45)



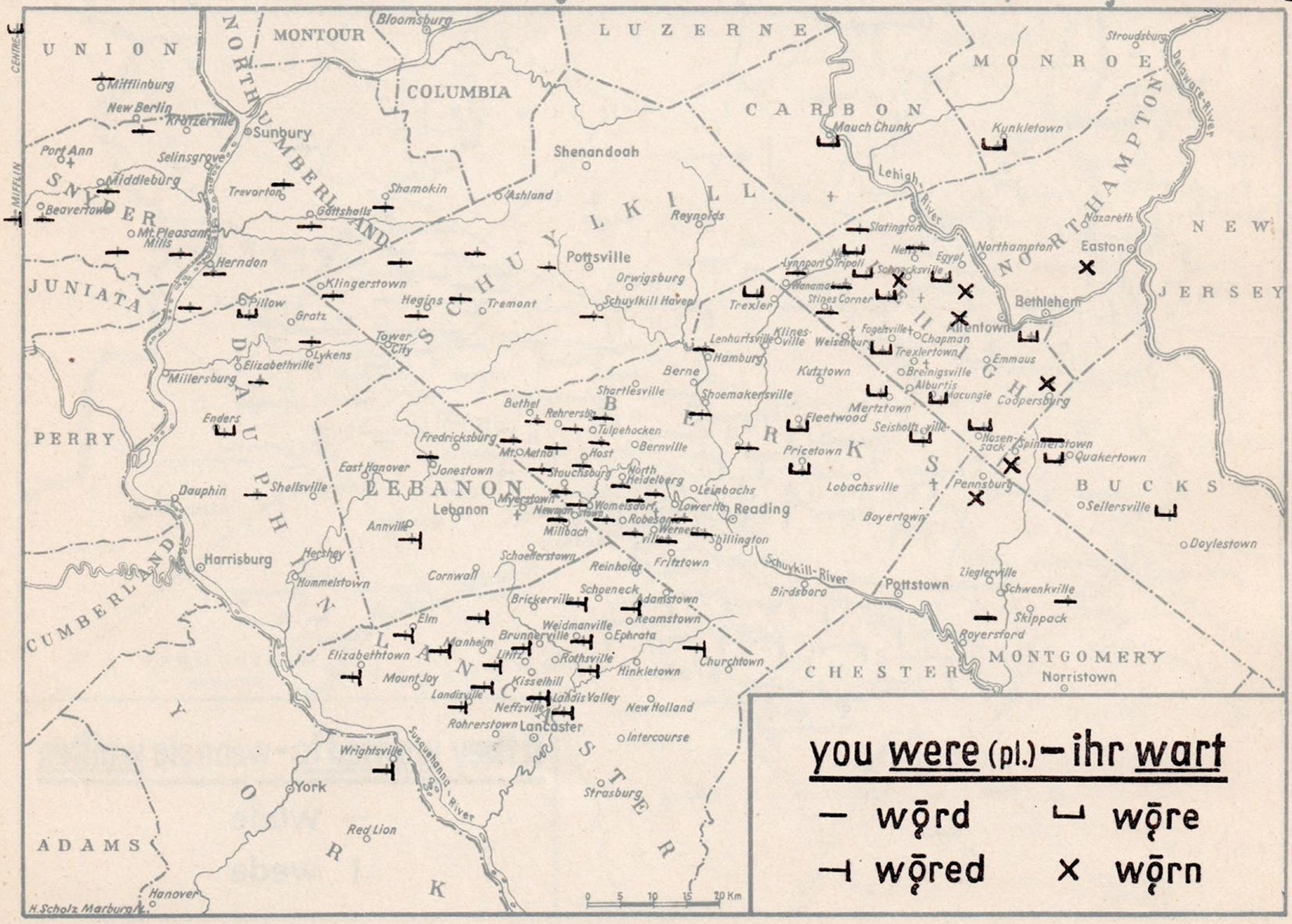
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (46)



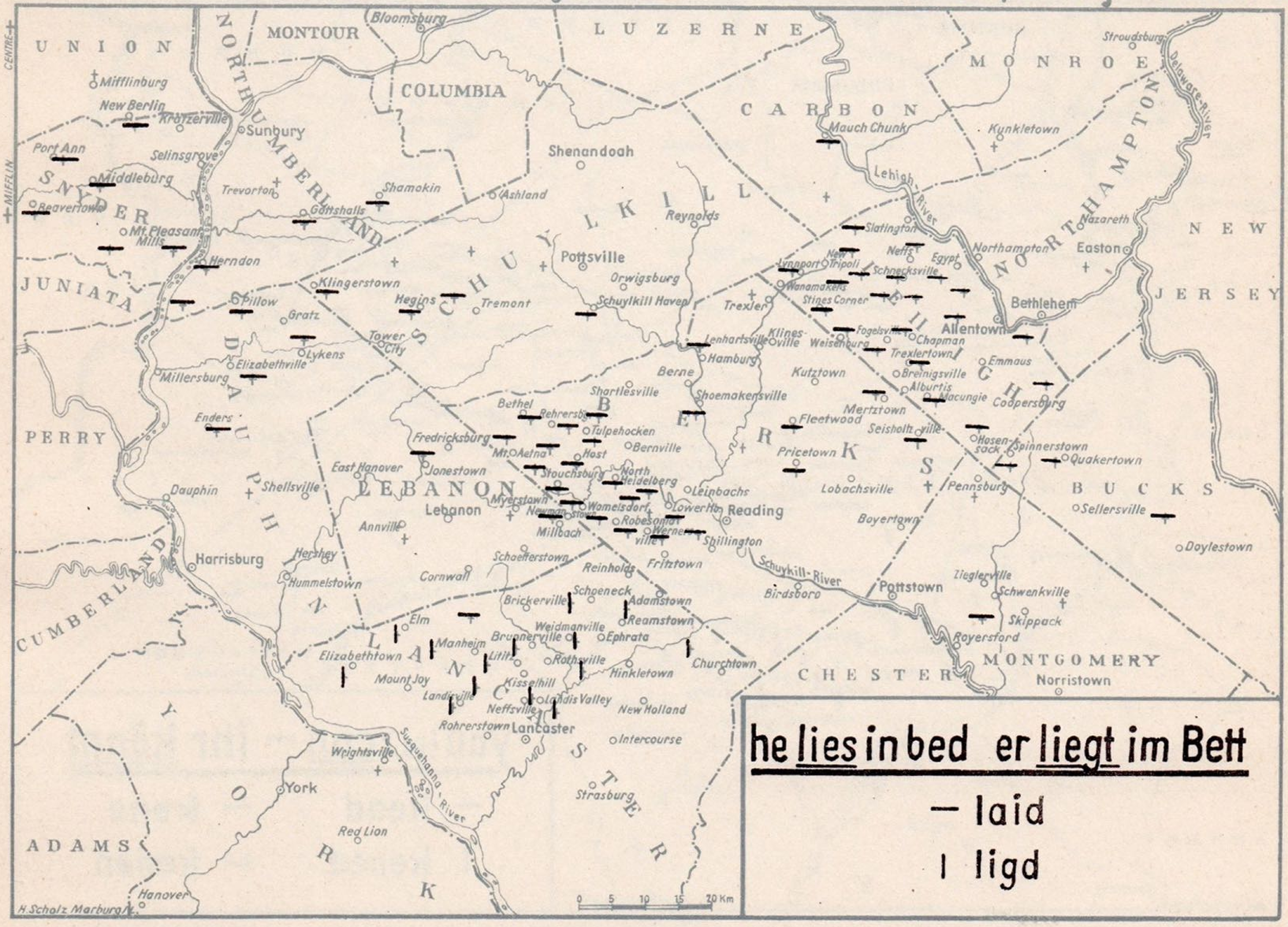
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (47)



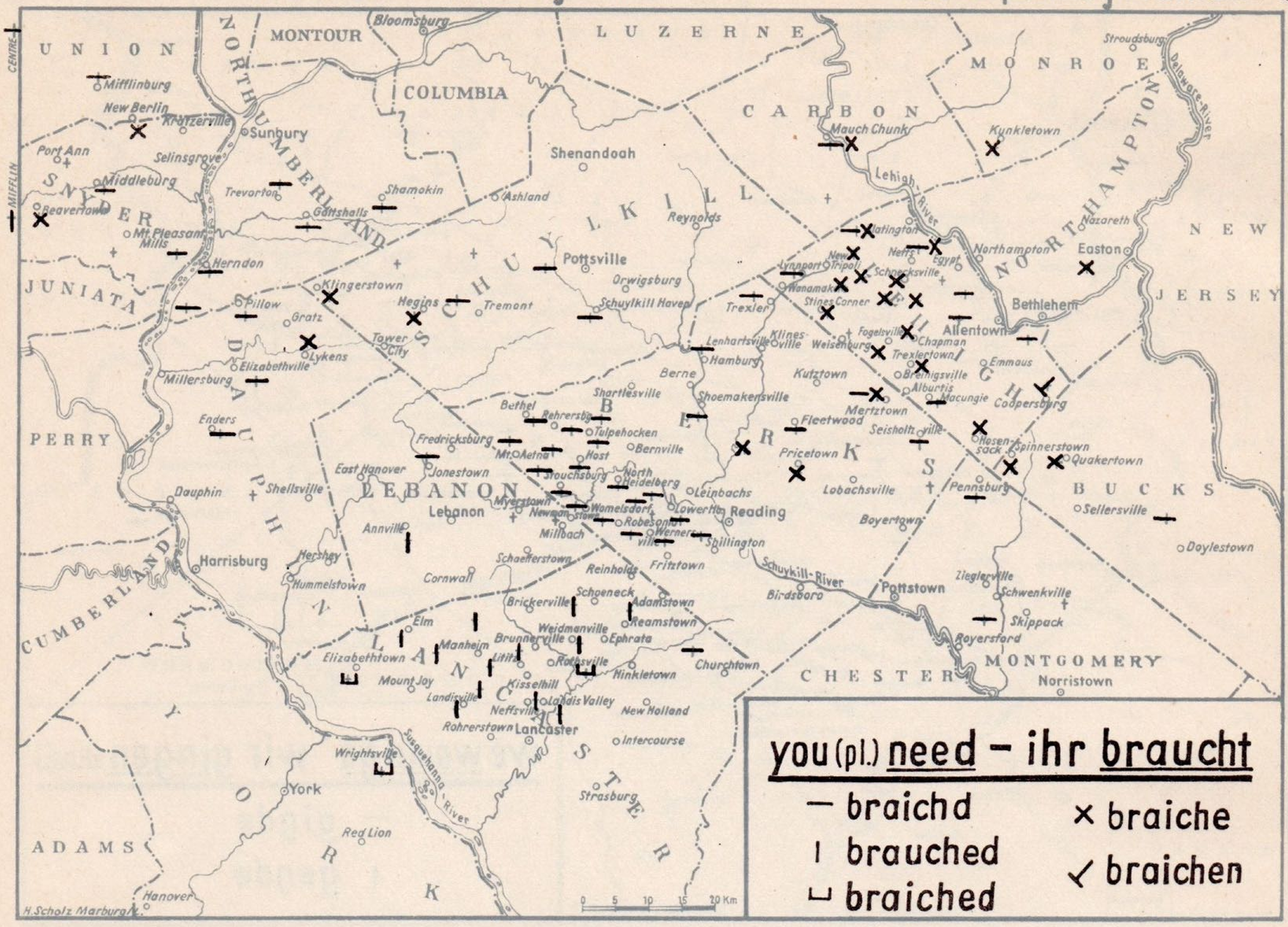
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (48)



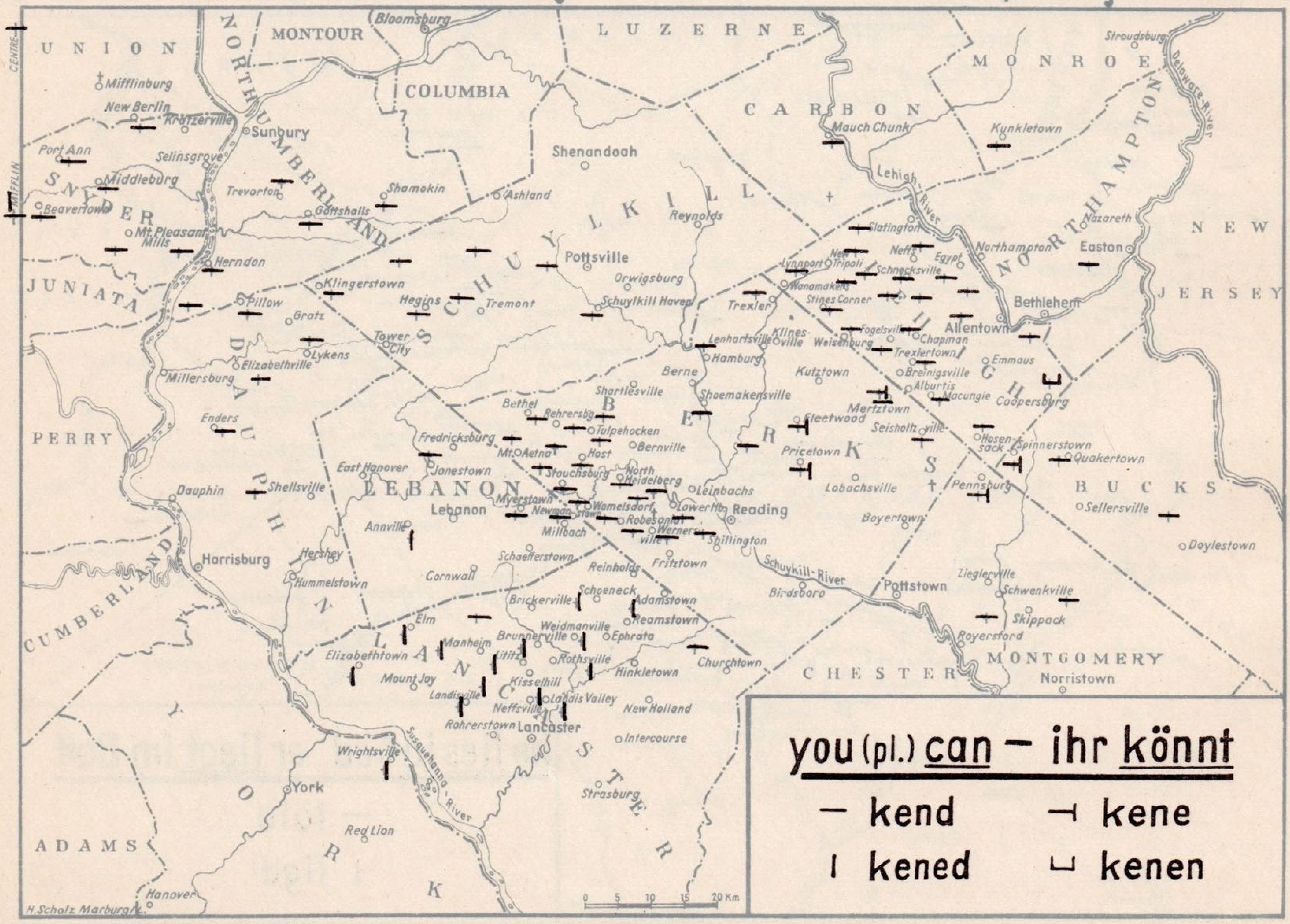
Southeastern Pennsylvania Südostpennsylvanien 50



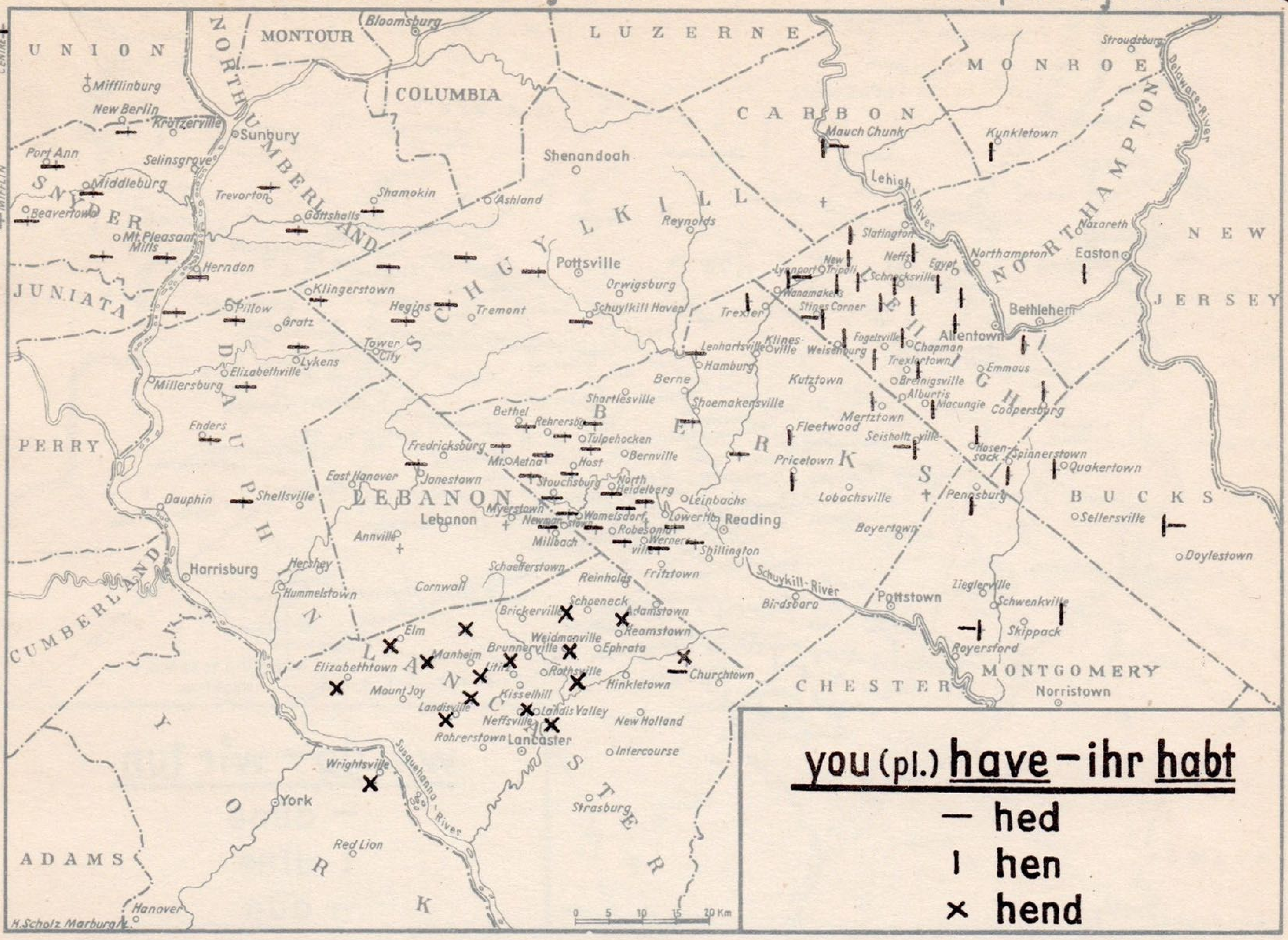
Southeastern Pennsylvania Südostpennsylvanien (51)



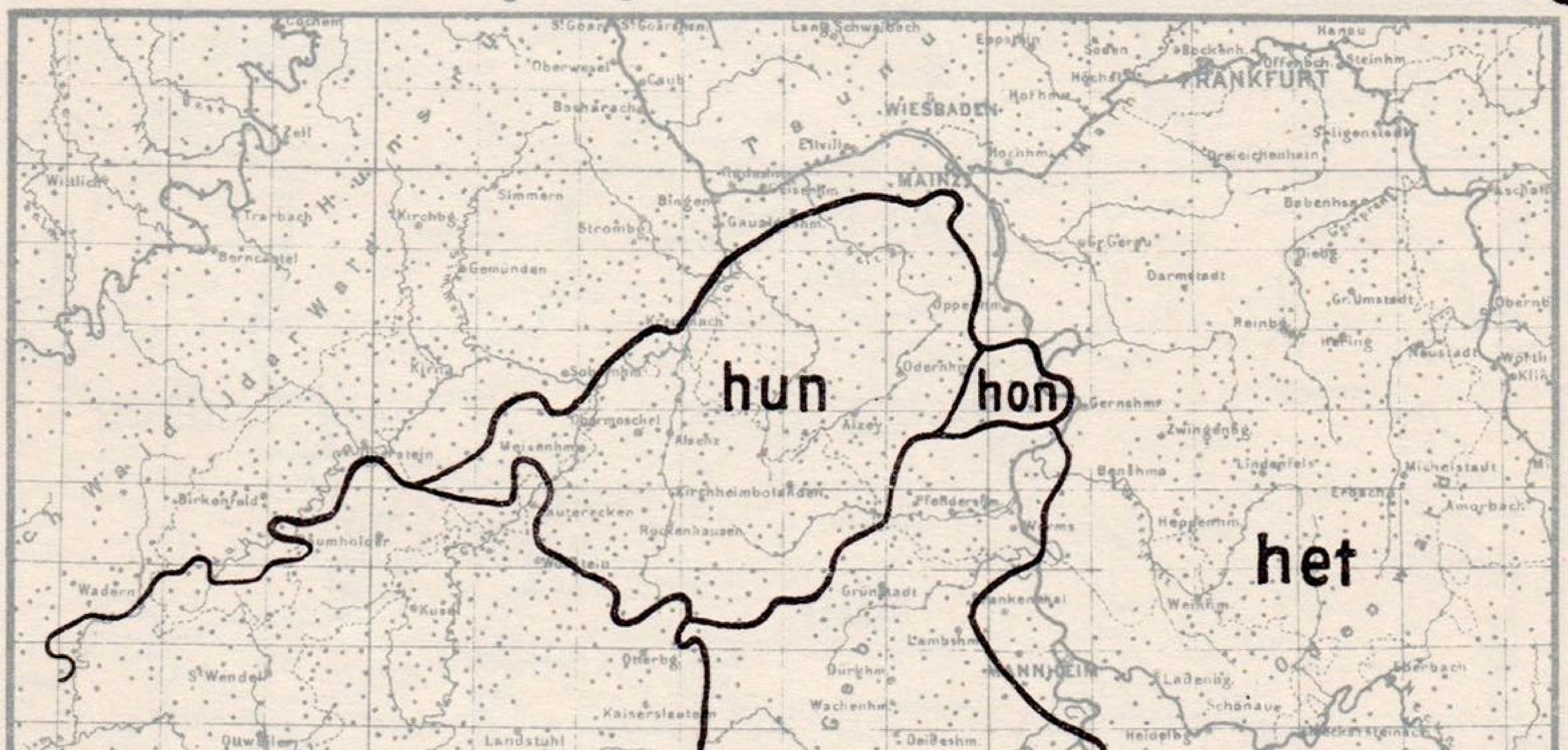
Southeastern Pennsylvania Südostpennsylvanien (52)



Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien

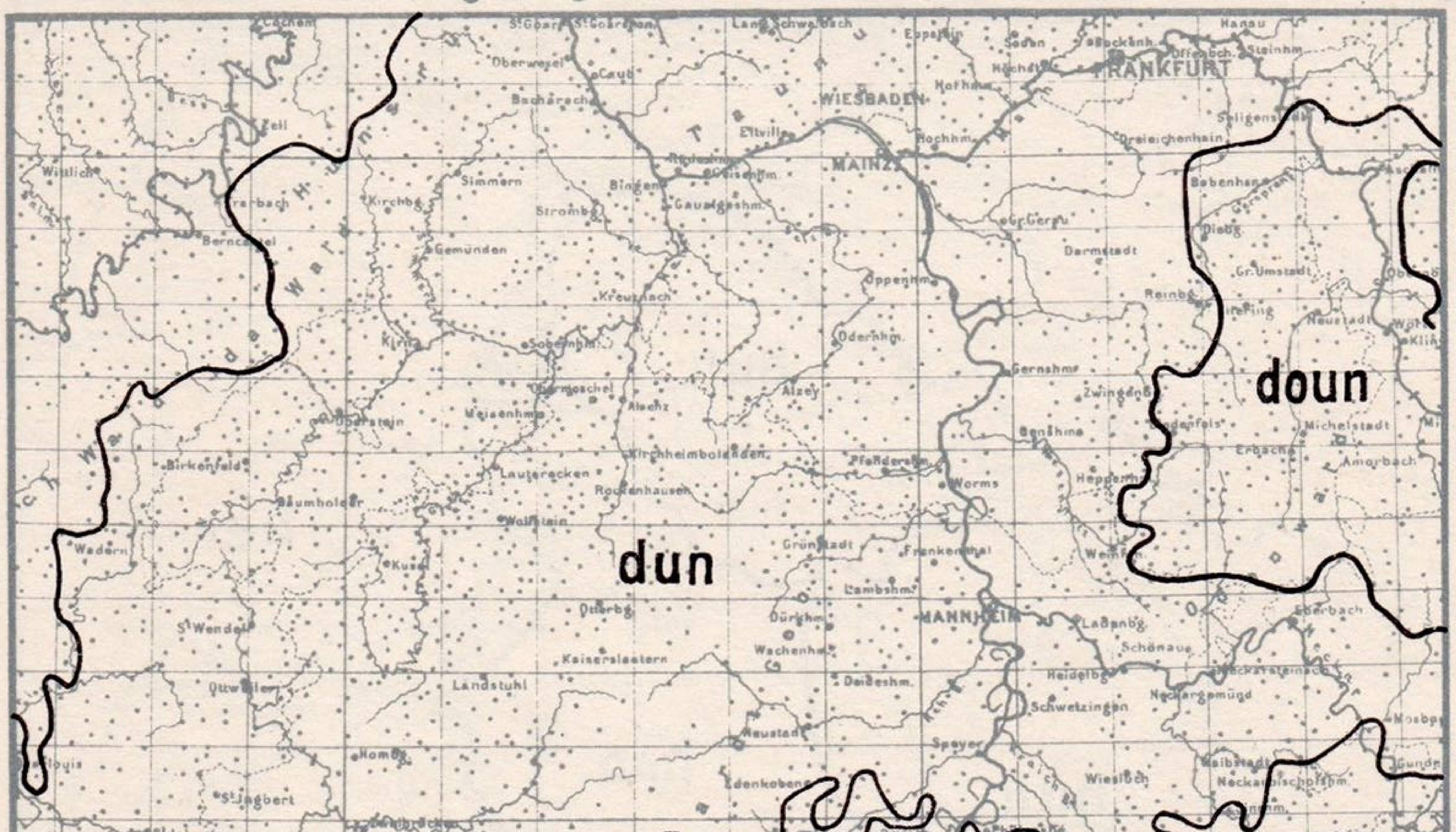


Southwestern Germany (Linguistic Atlas) – Südwest-Deutschland (DSA.) 53a

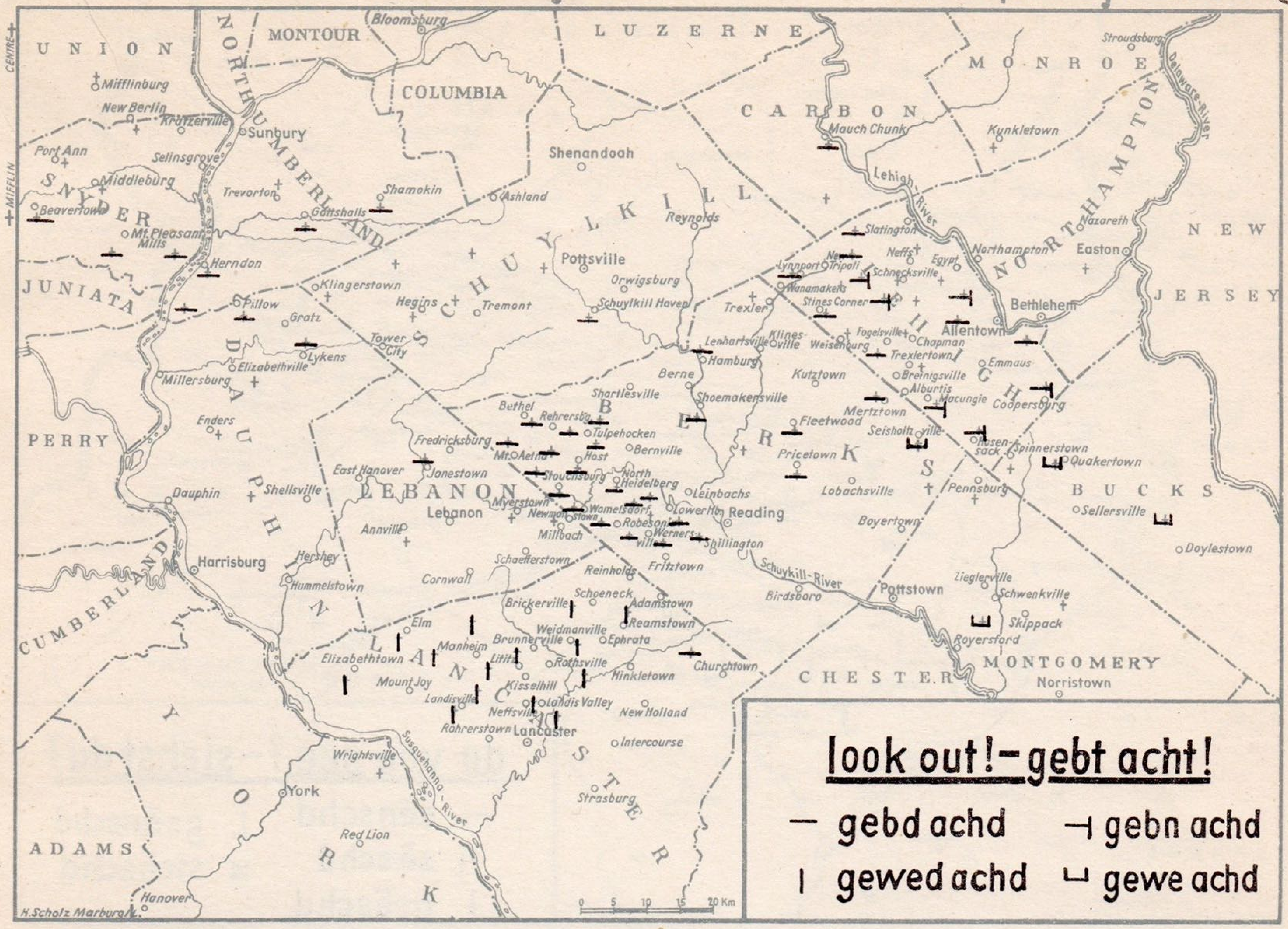


Southeastern Pennsylvania Südostpennsylvanien

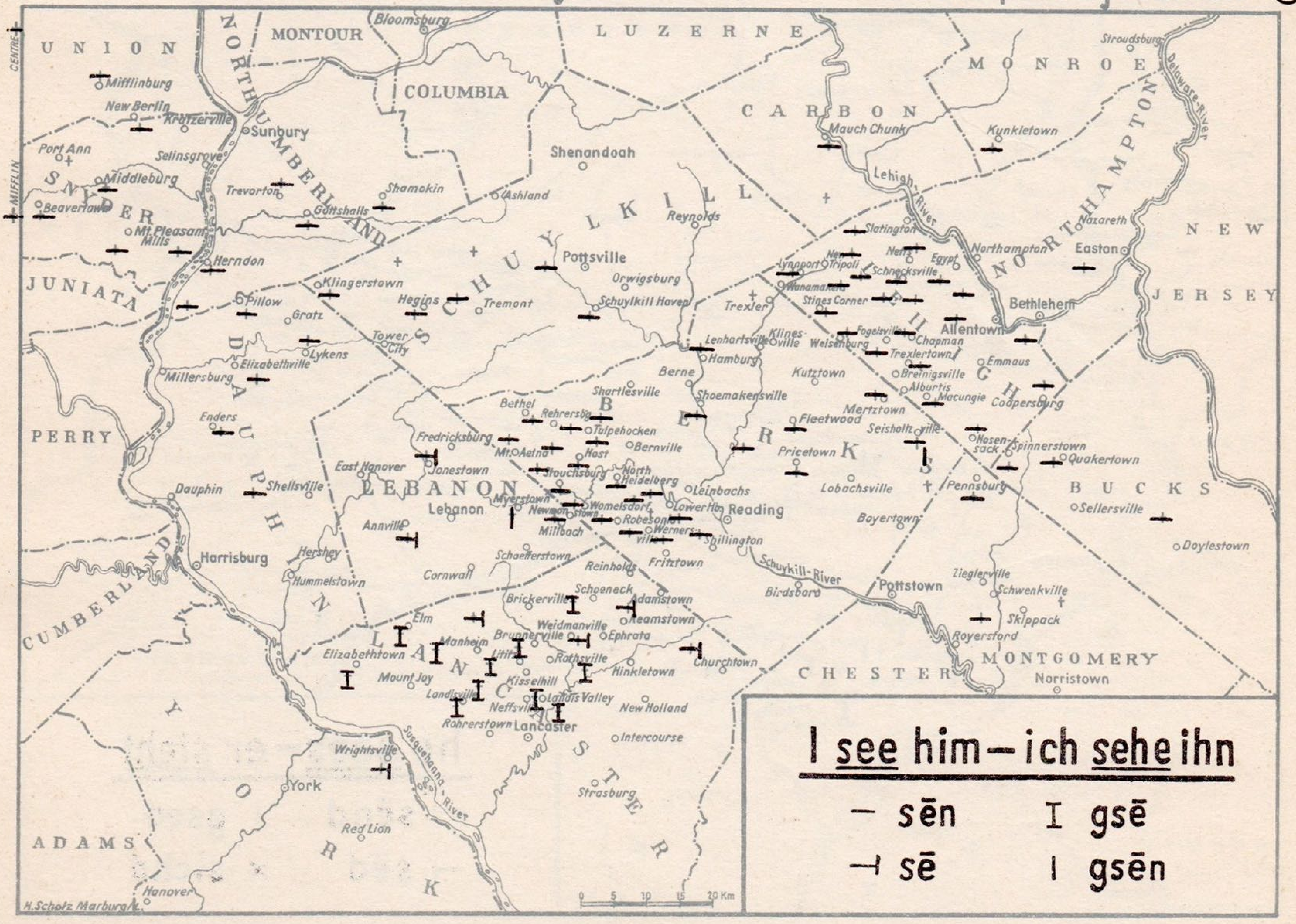
Southwestern Germany (Linguistic Atlas) - Südwest-Deutschland (DSA)

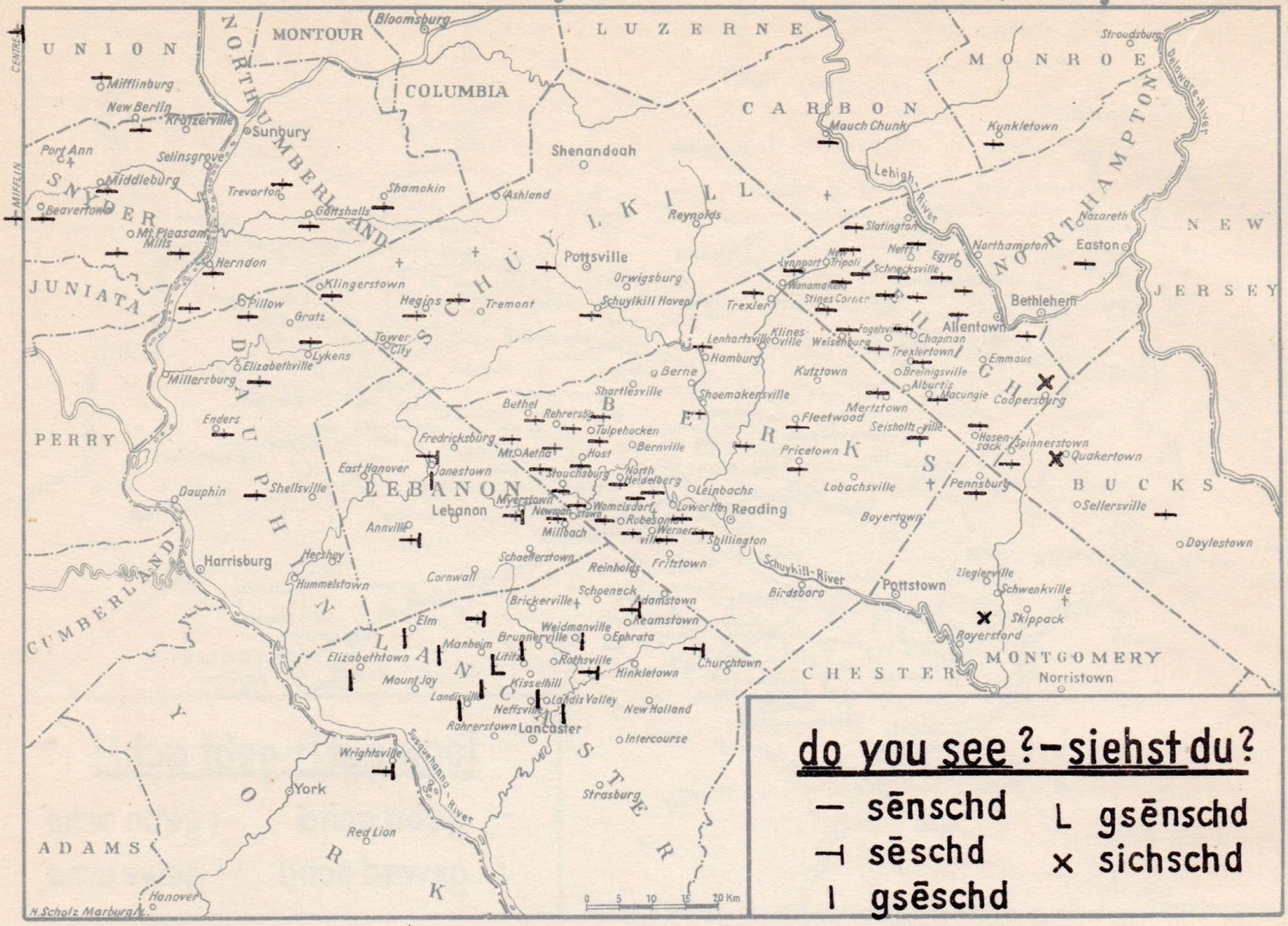


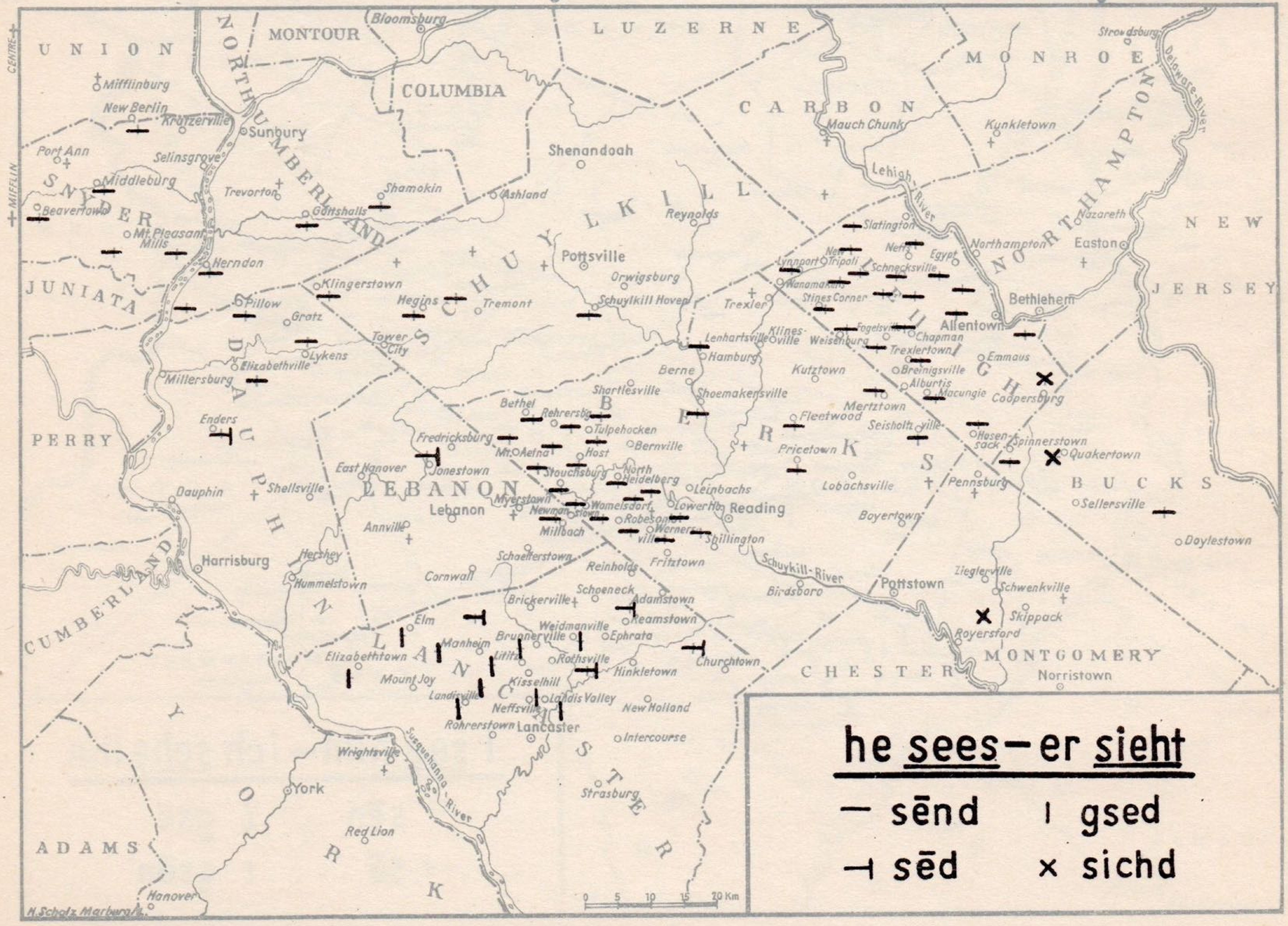
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (55)



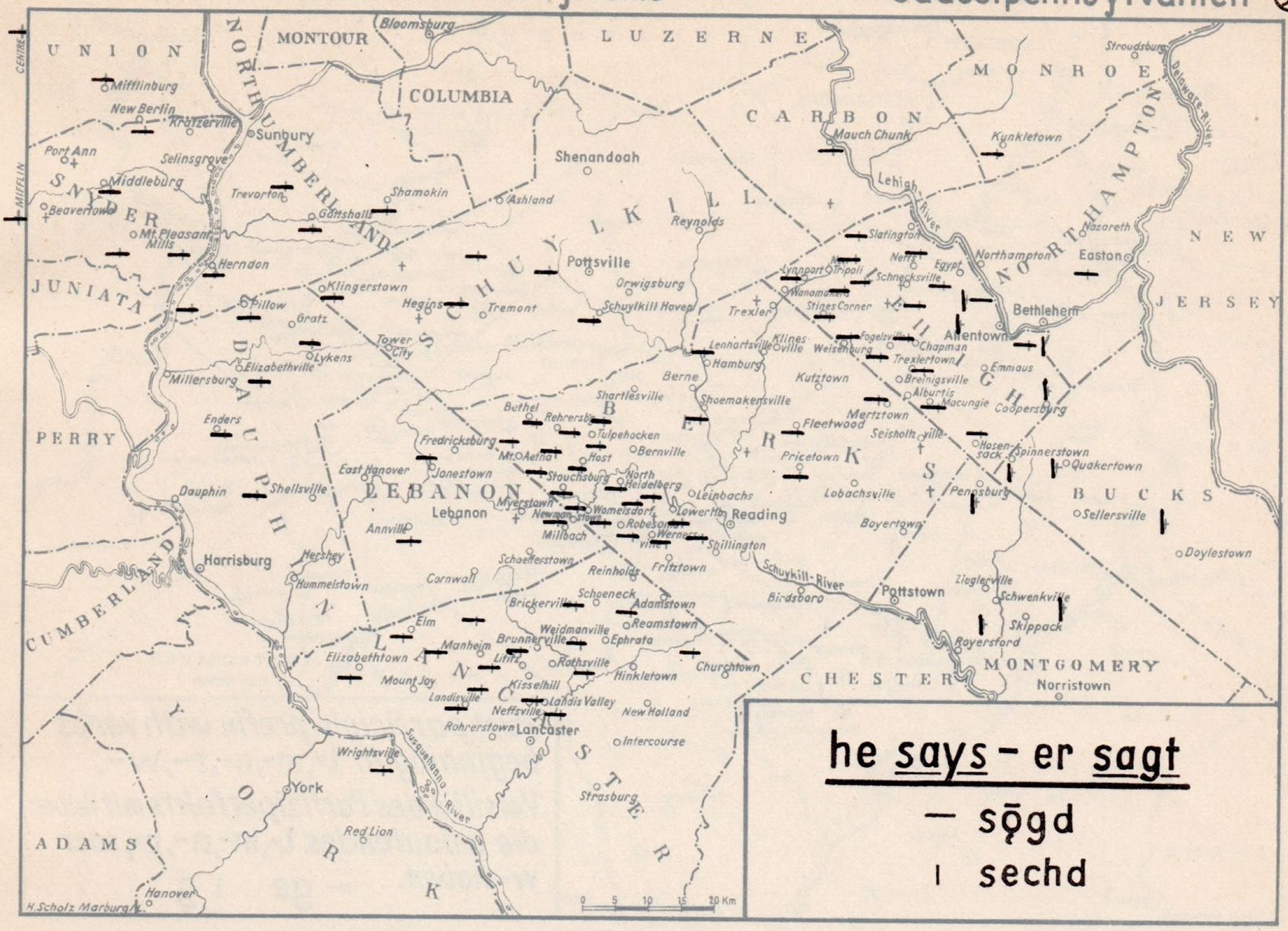
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (56)



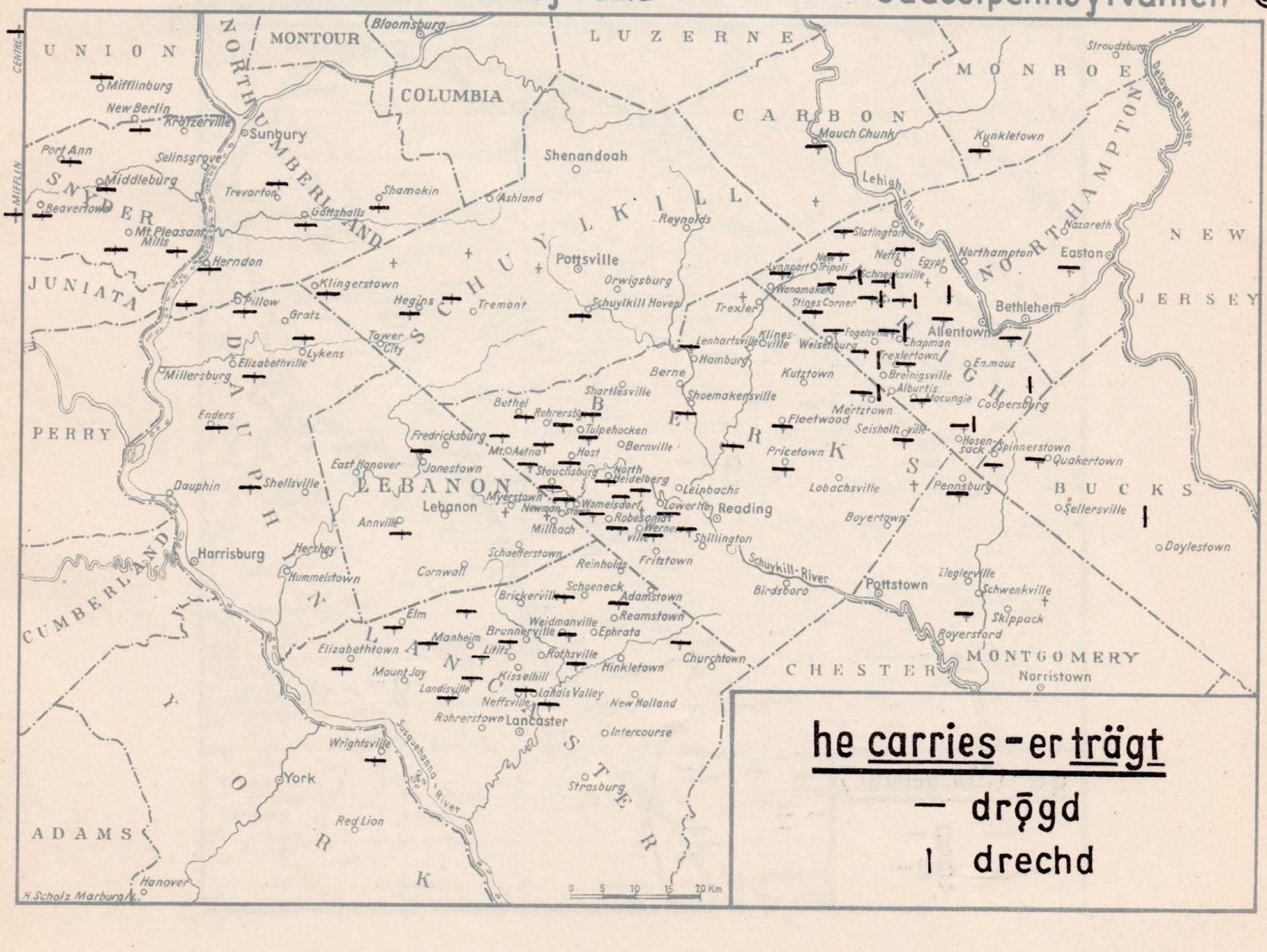

do you see ? - siehst du ?
— sēnschd
⊣ sēschd
| gsēschd
L gsēnschd
× sichschd
0 5 10 15 20 Km
H. Scholz Marburg/L.


he sees – er sieht
— sēnd
⊣ sēd
| gsed
× sichd
0 5 10 15 20 Km
H. Scholz Marburg/L.

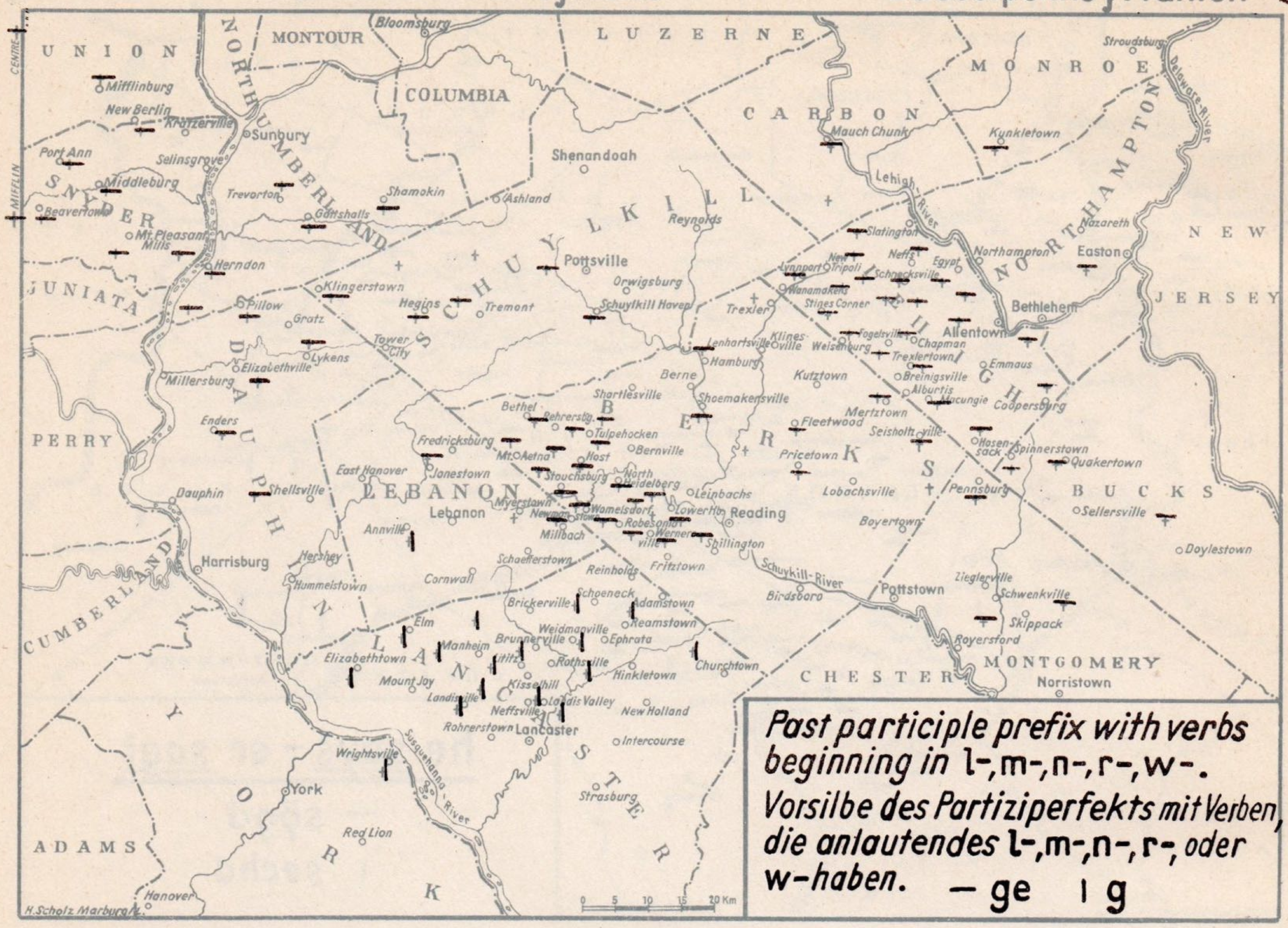
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (59)



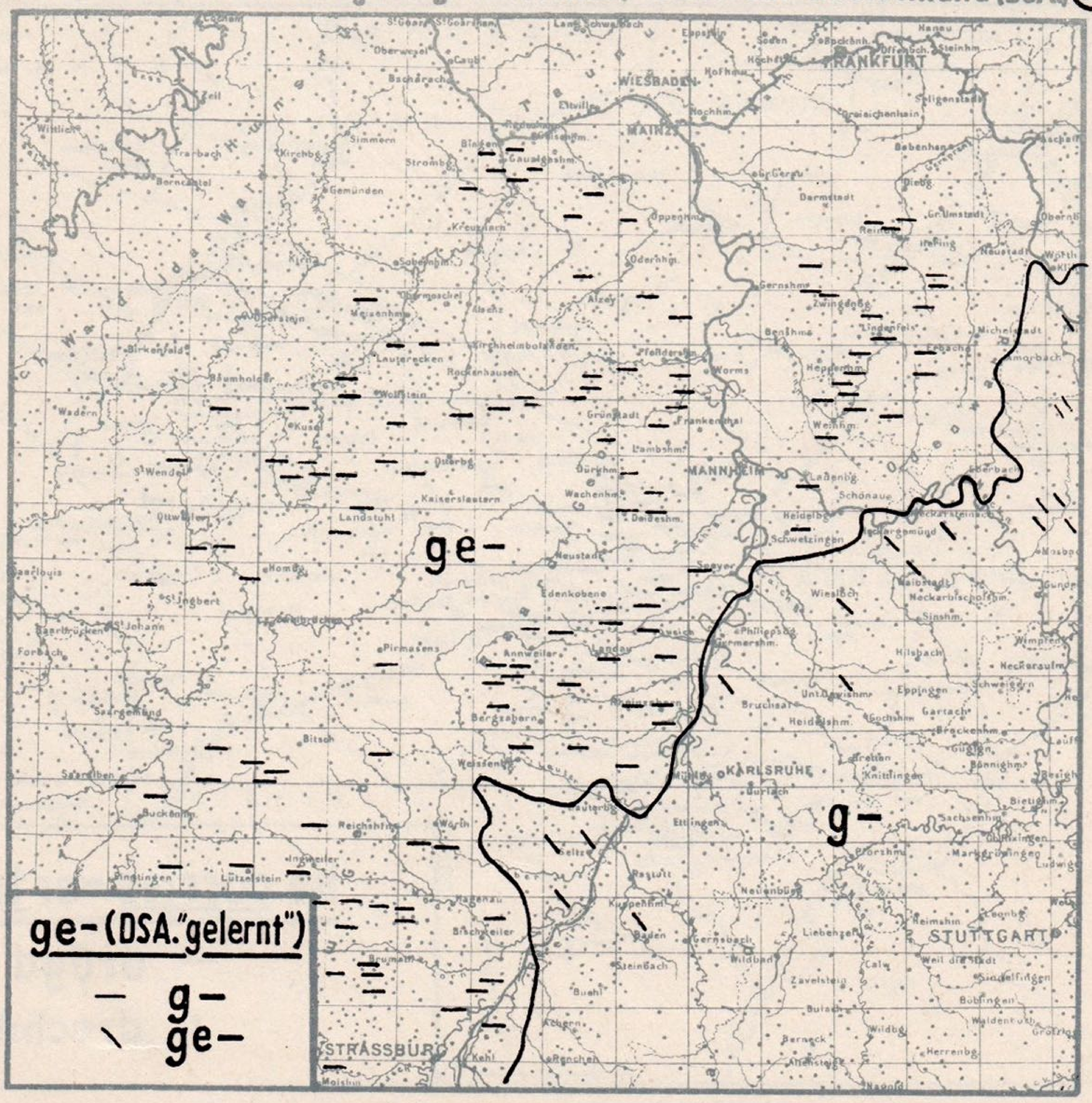
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (60)



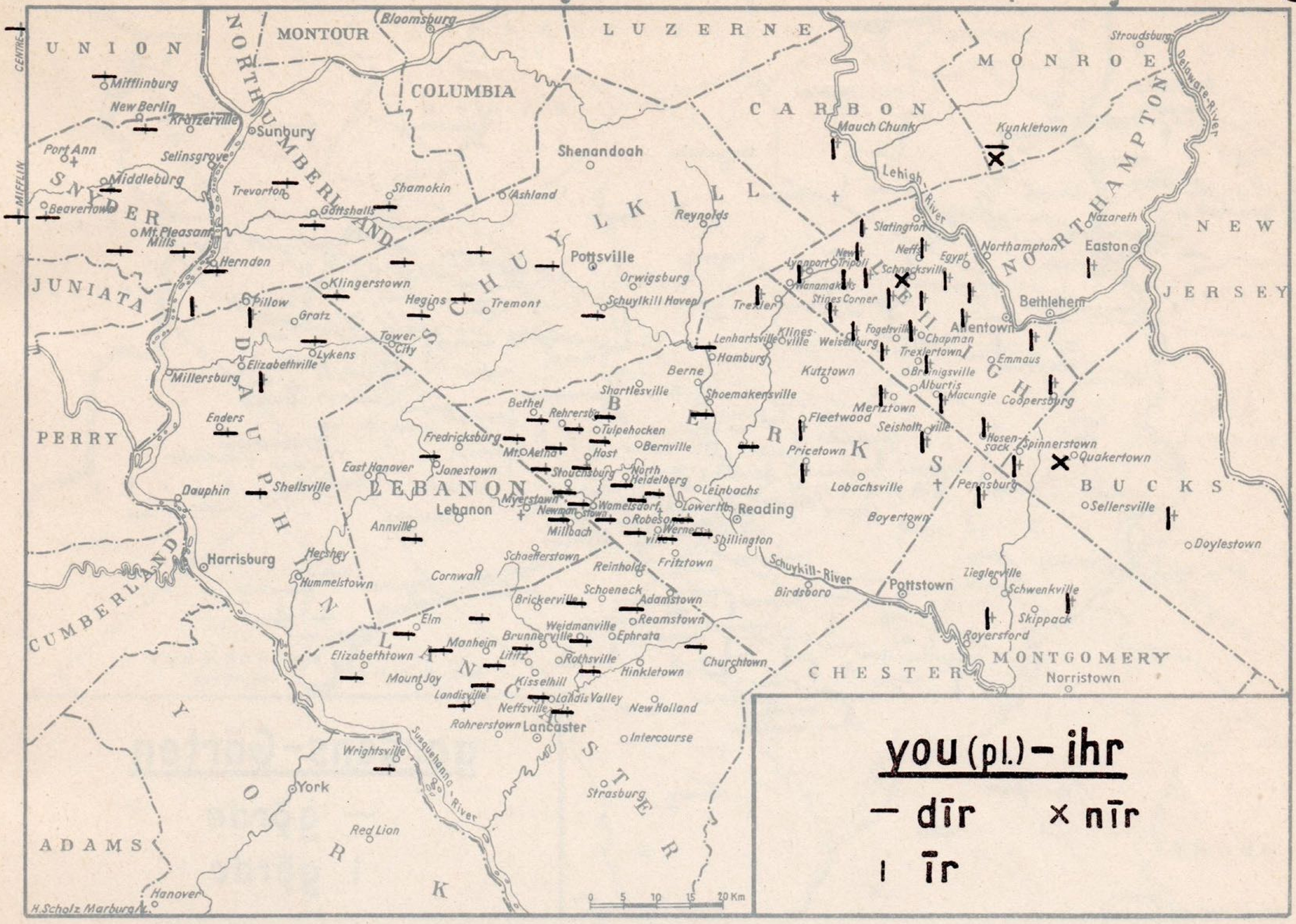
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (61)



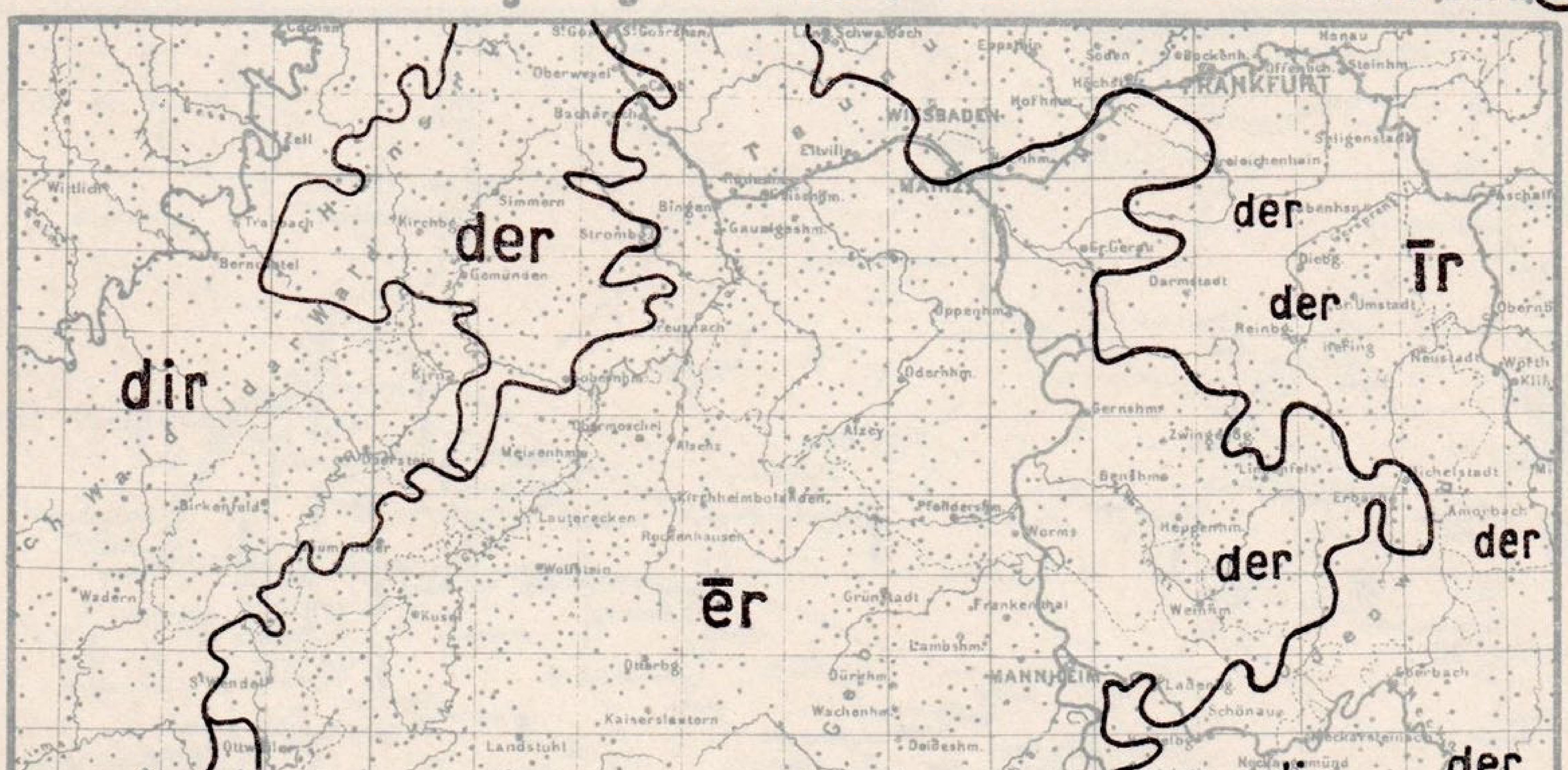
Southwestern Germany (Linguistic Atlas) - Südwest-Deutschland (DSA) (61) a



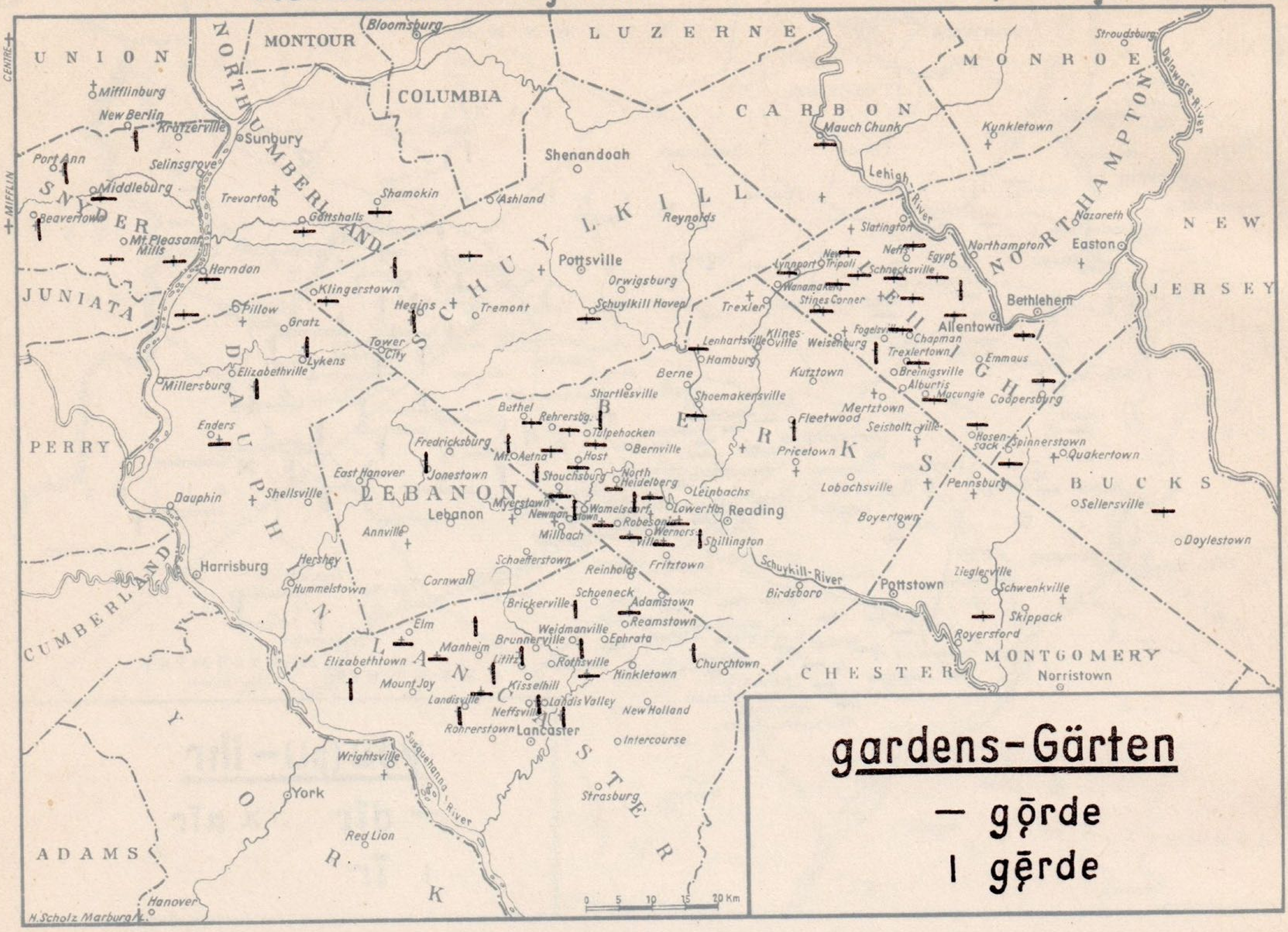
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien



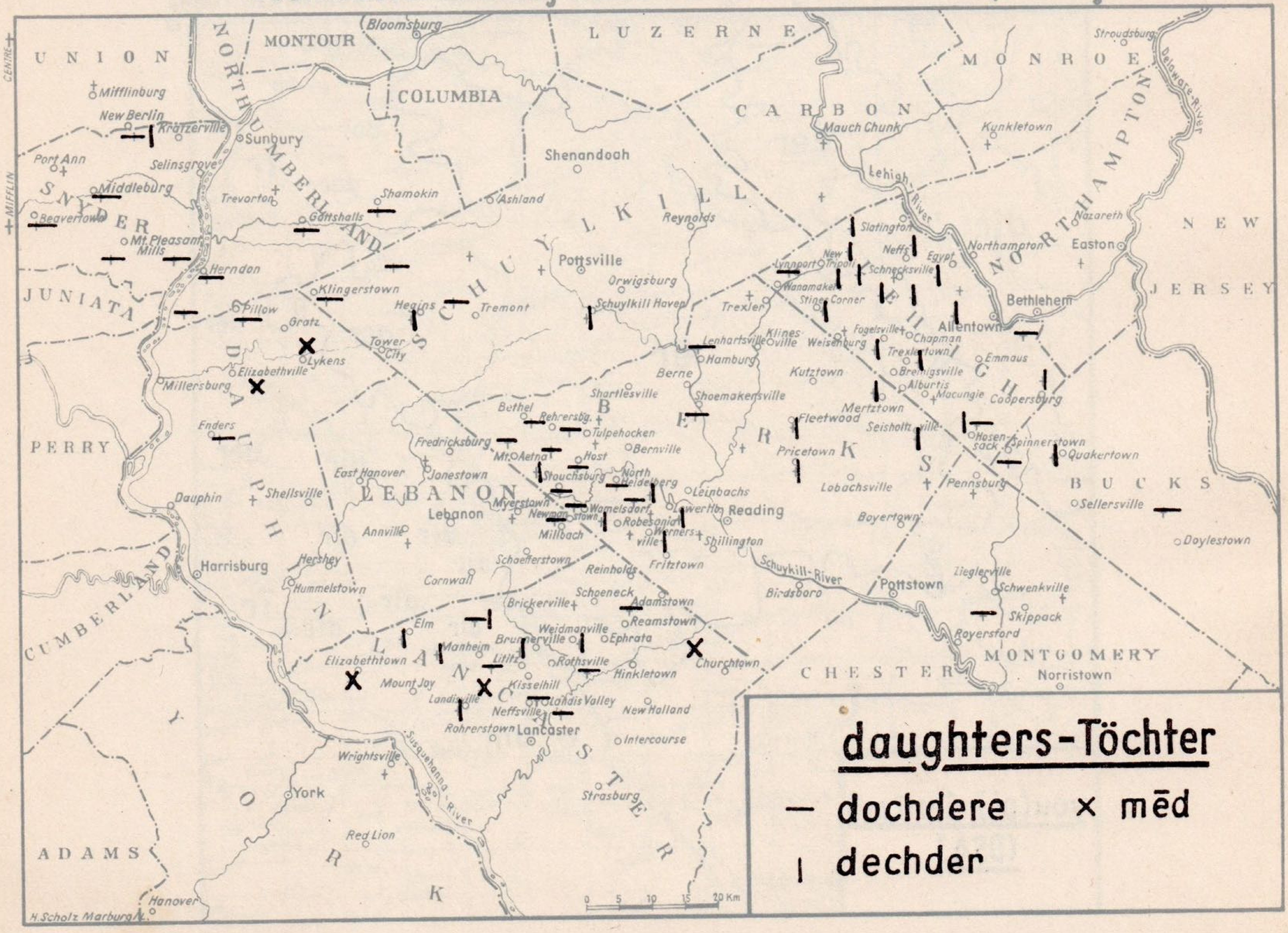
Southwestern Germany (Linguistic Atlas) – Südwest-Deutschland (DSA.) 62 a



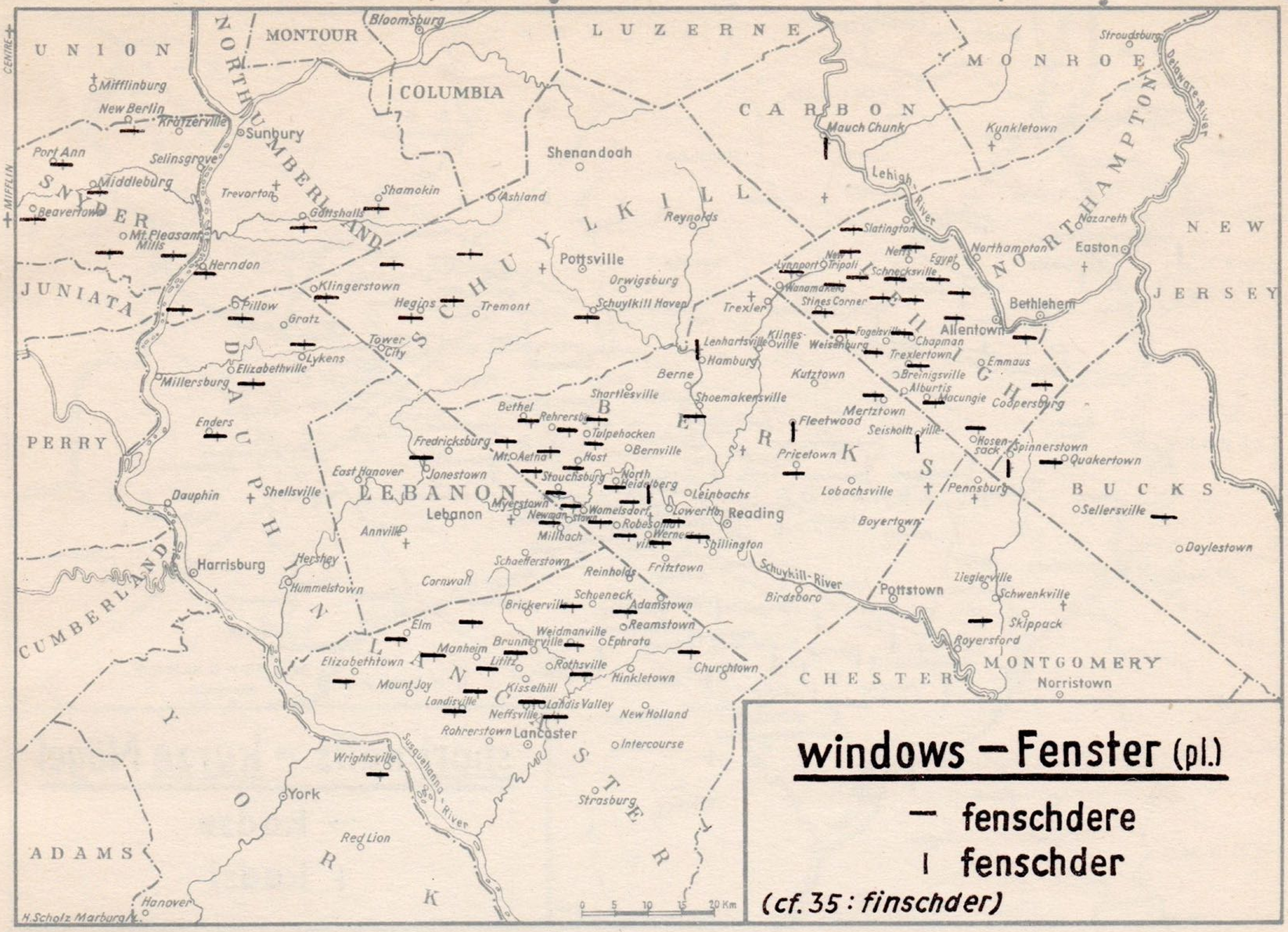
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (63)



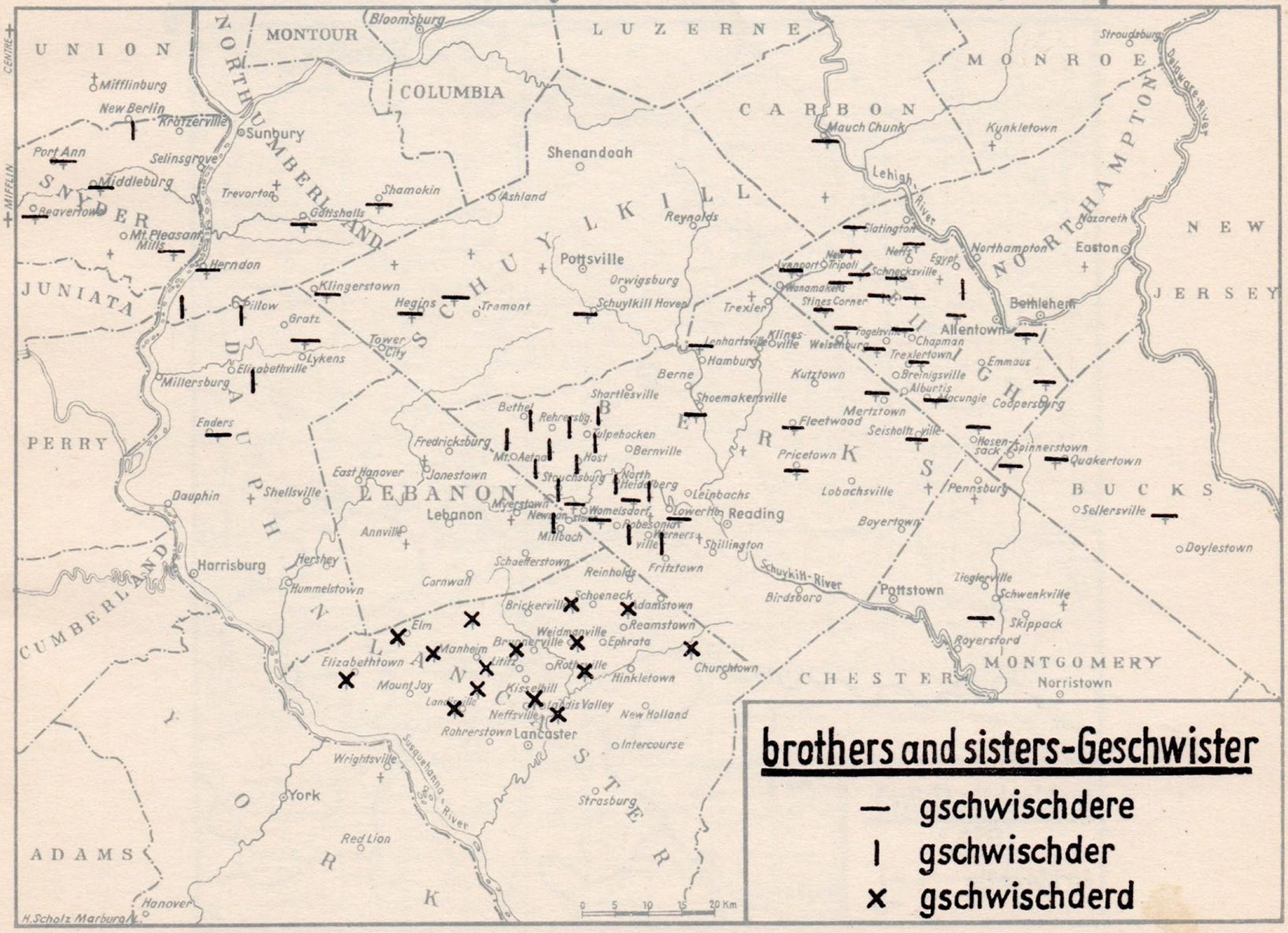
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (64)



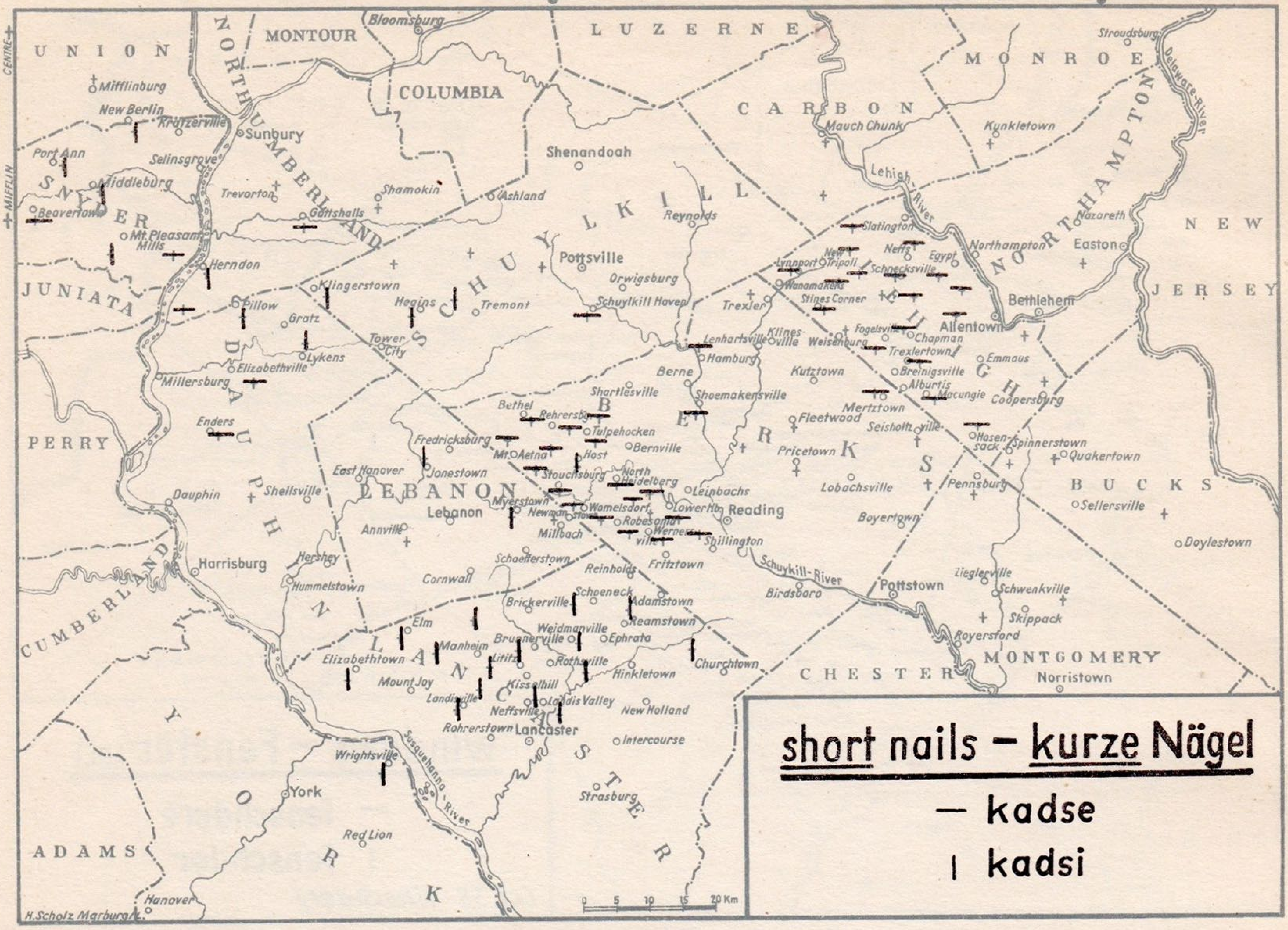
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (65)



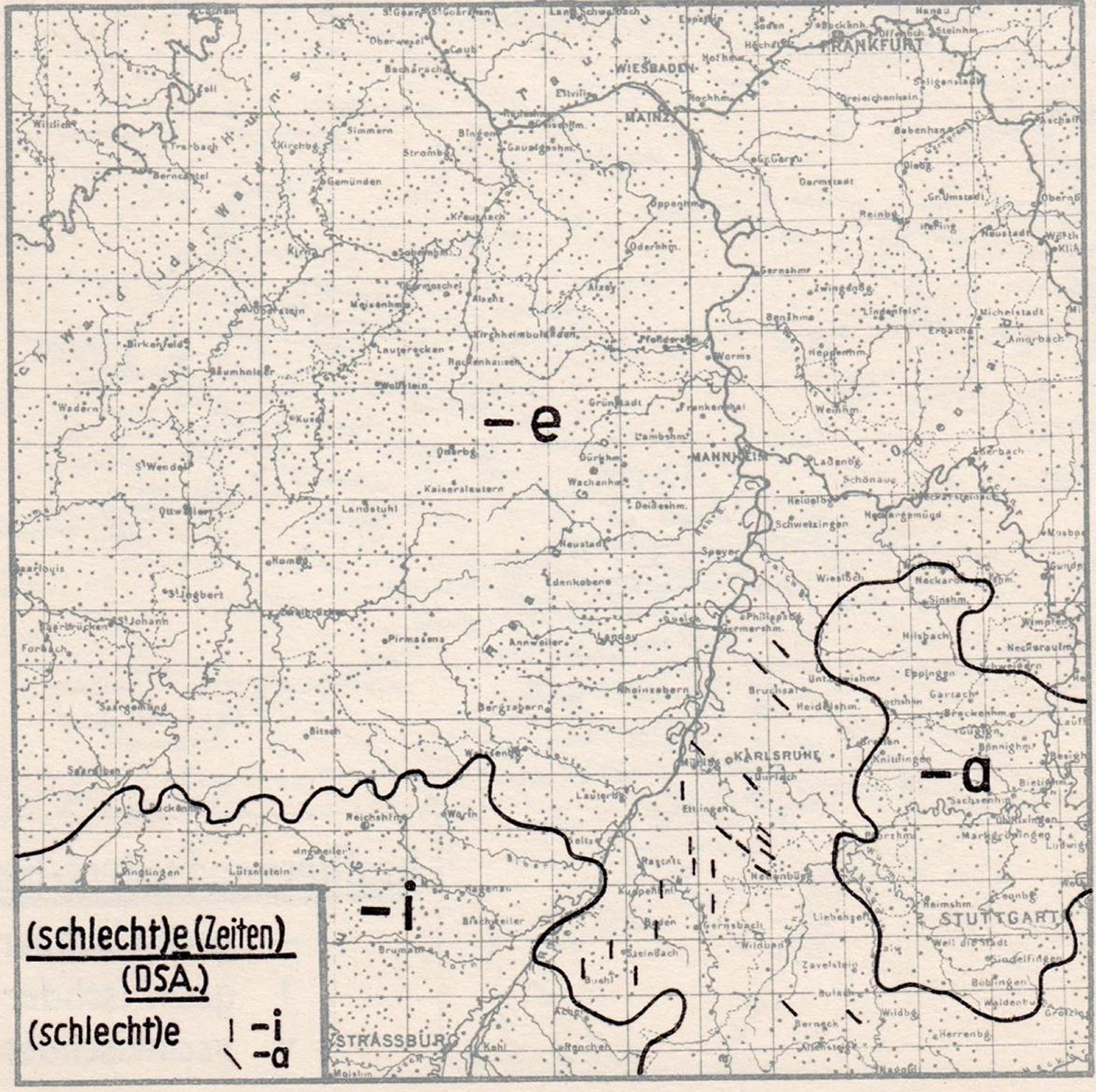
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (66)



Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (67)

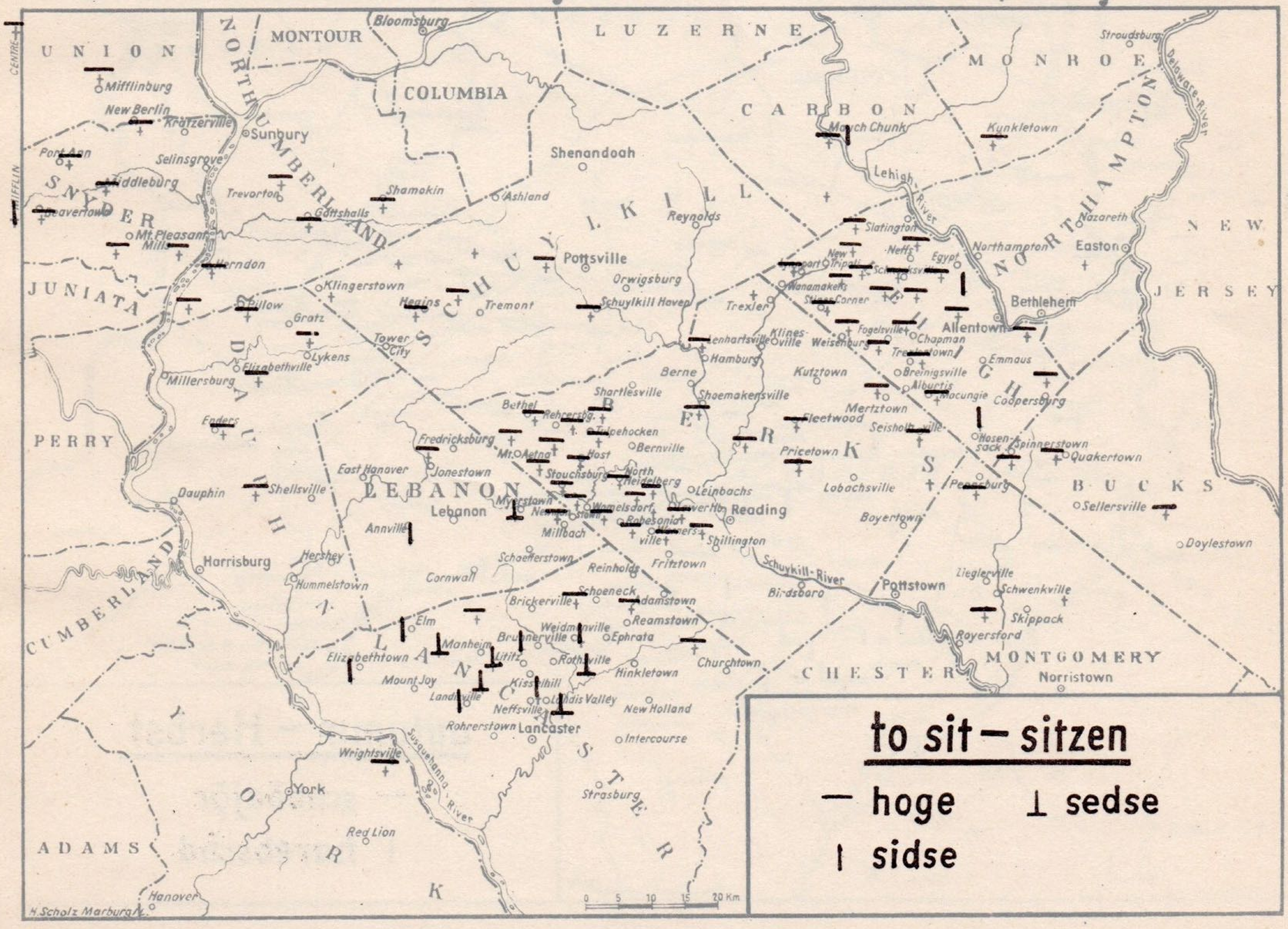


Southwestern Germany (Linguistic Atlas) - Südwest-Deutschland (DSA.) (67a)

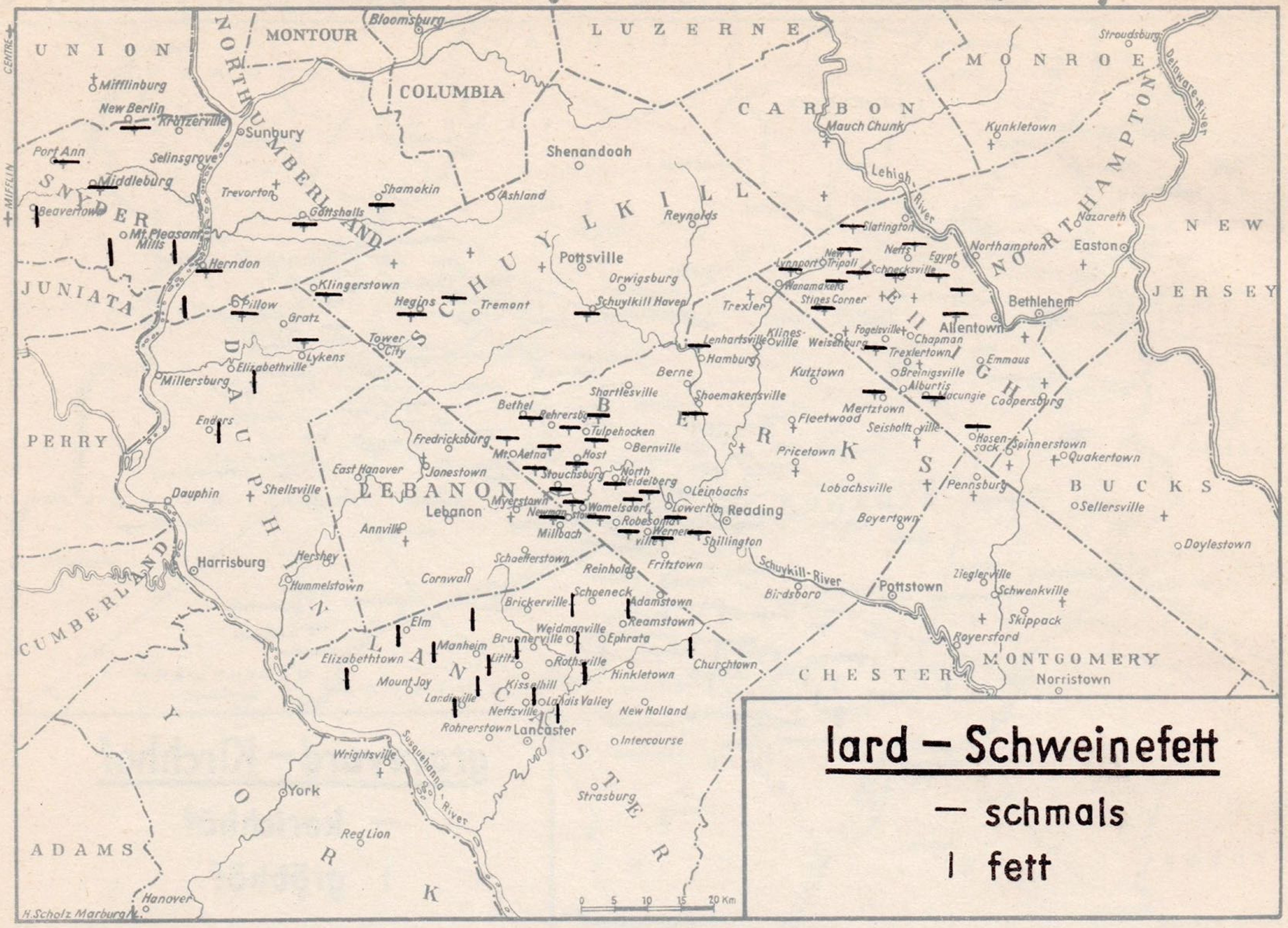


Southeastern Pennsylvania   Südostpennsylvanien (68)

Southeastern Pennsylvania   Südostpennsylvanien (69)

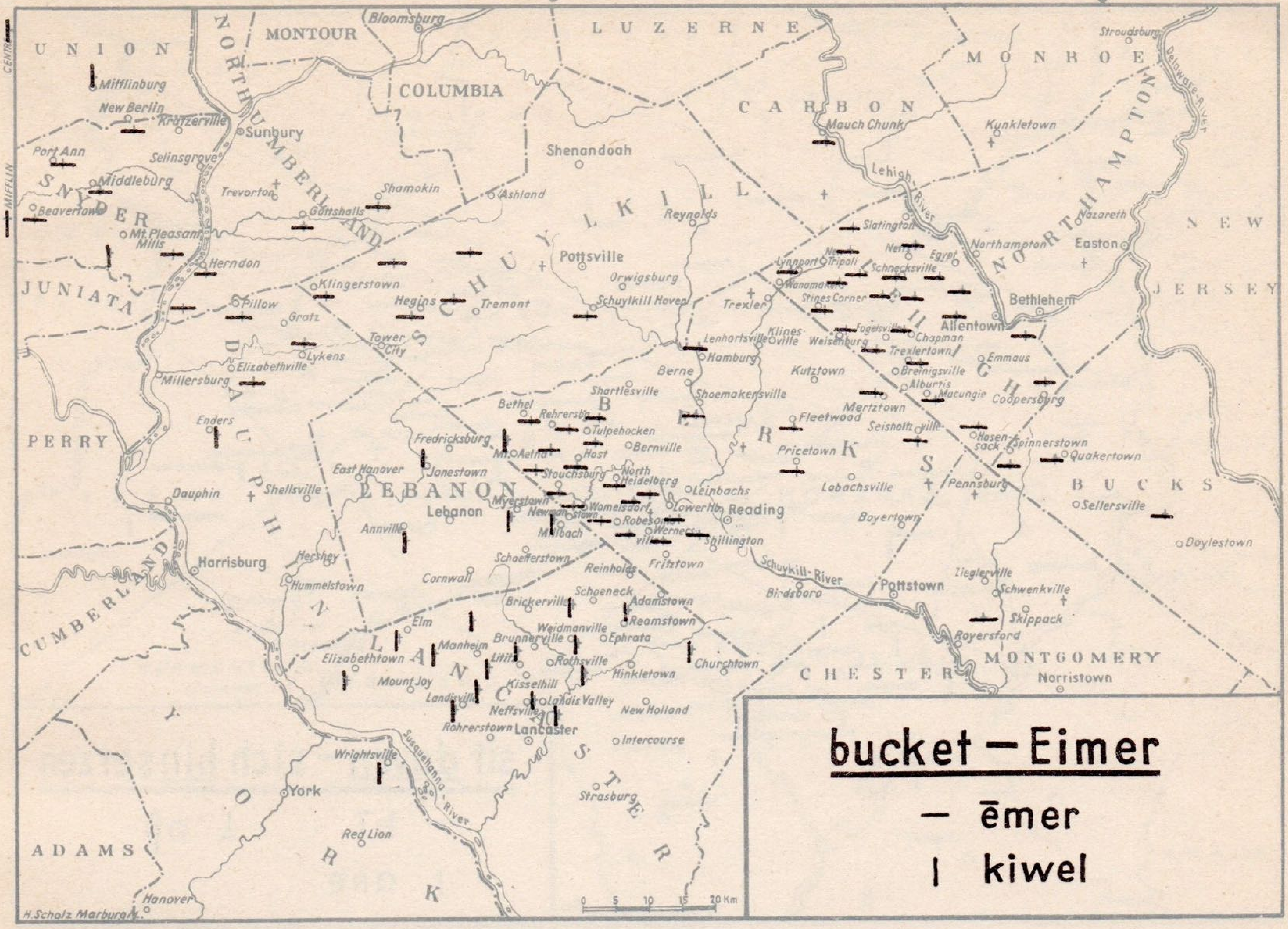


Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (70)

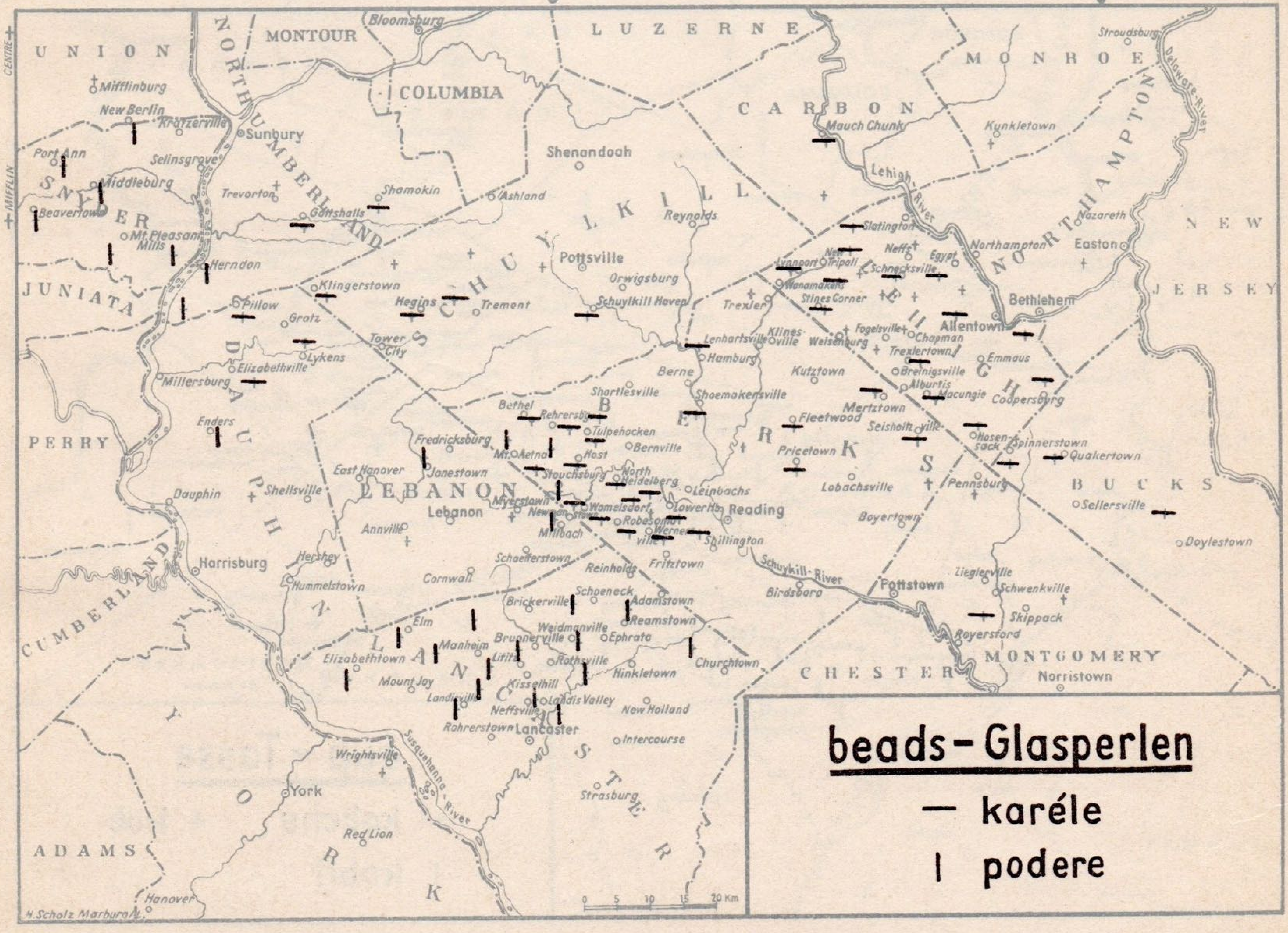


Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (71)

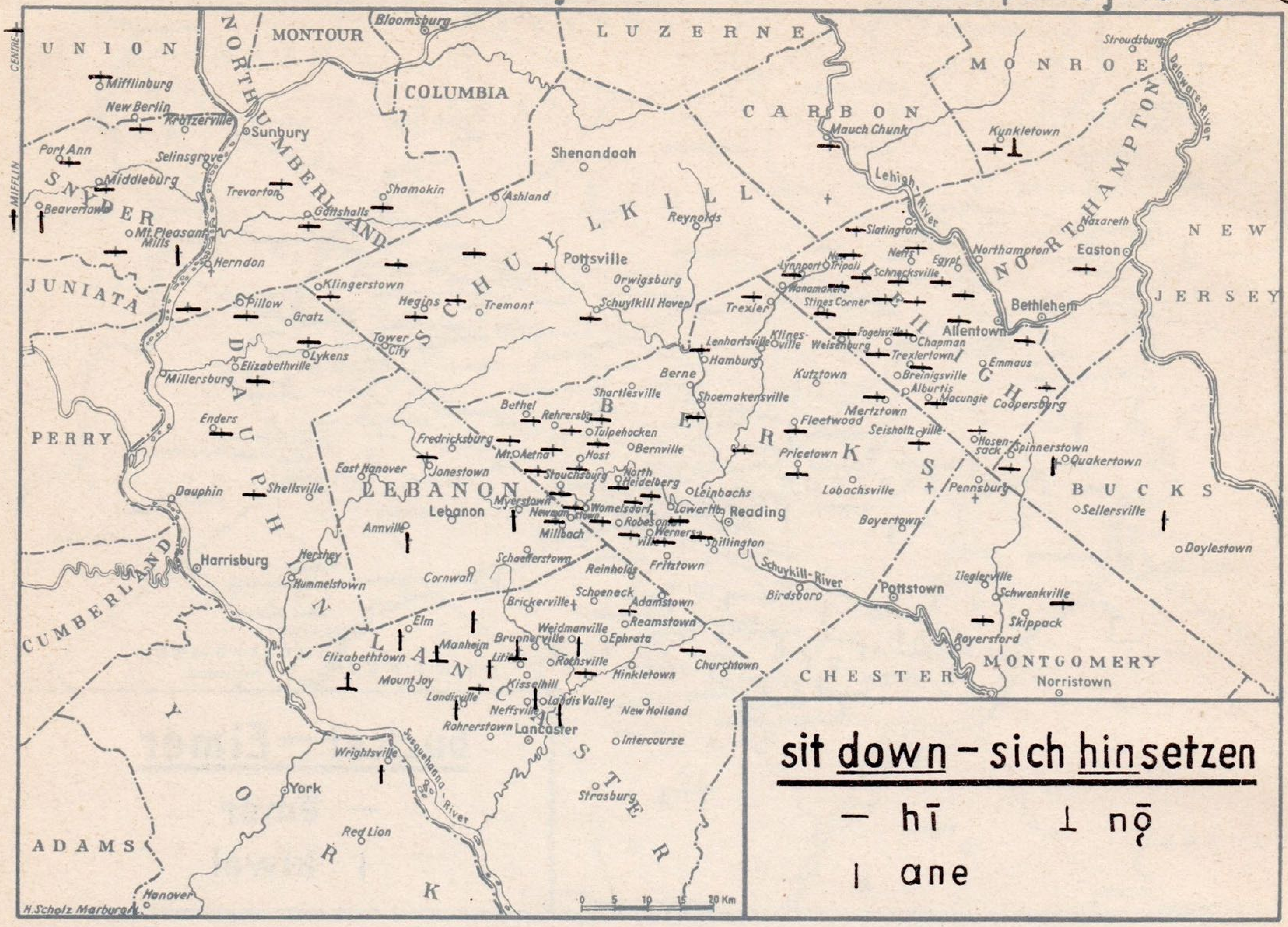
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (72)



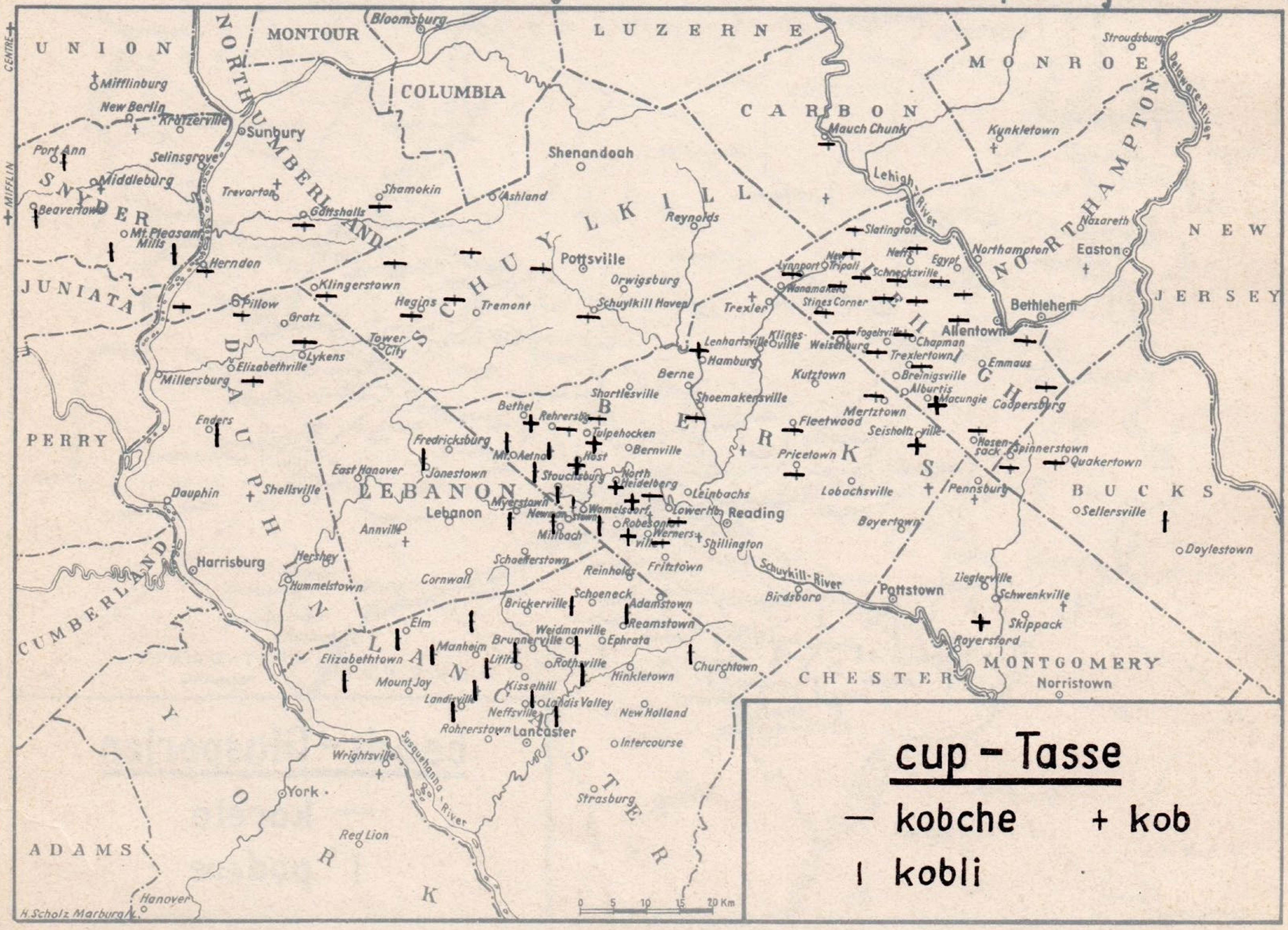
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (73)



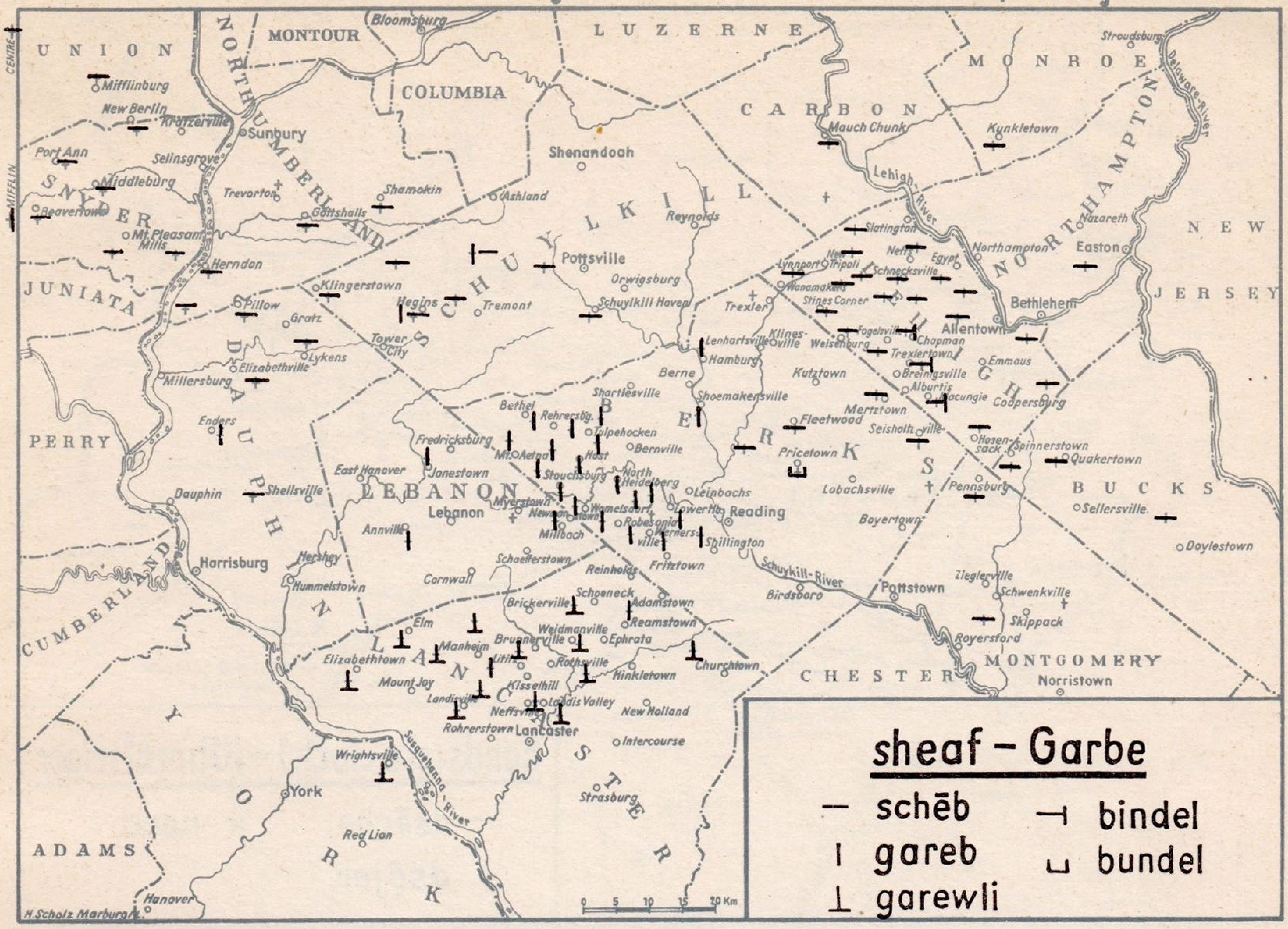
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (74)



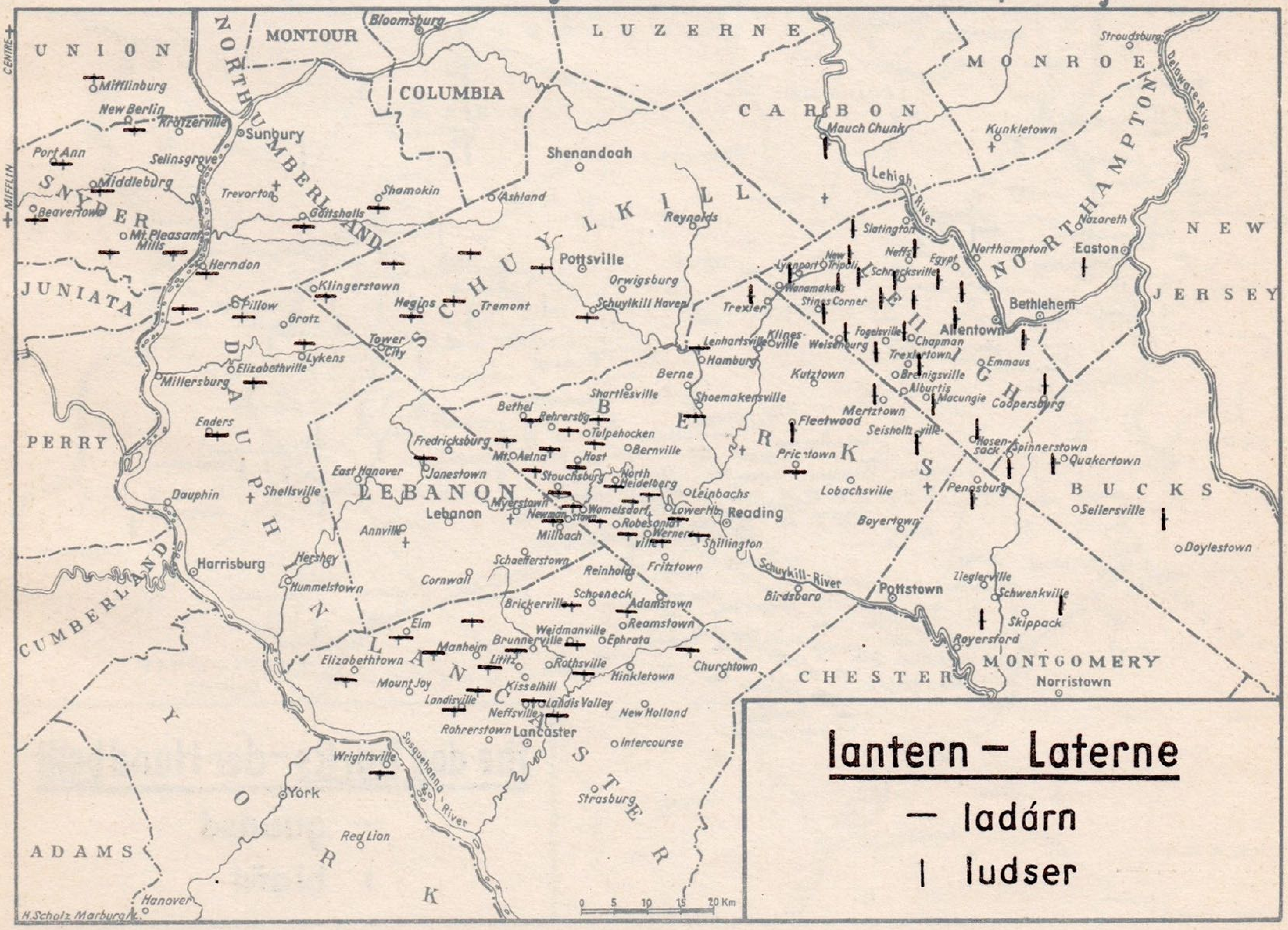
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (75)



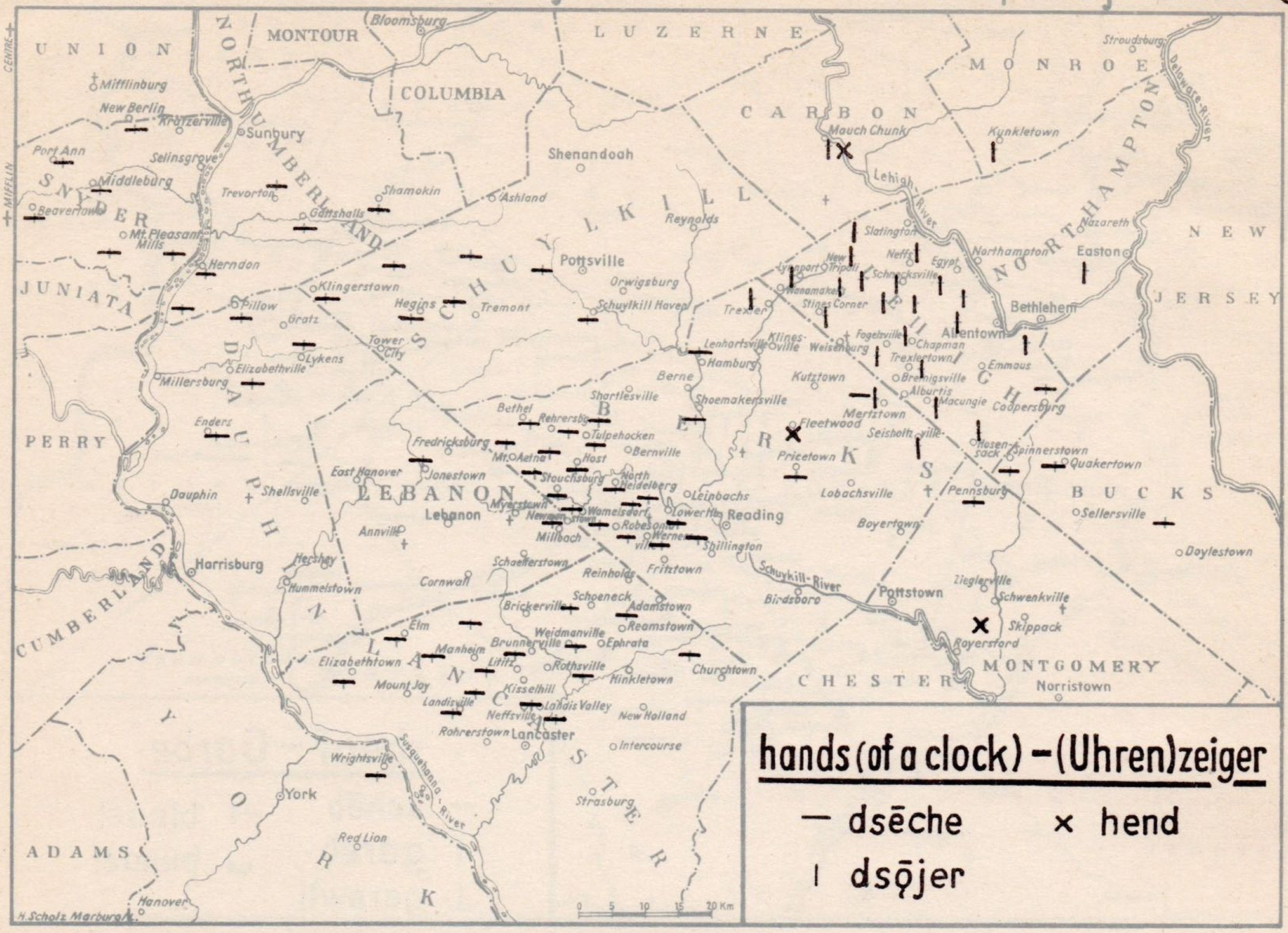
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (76)



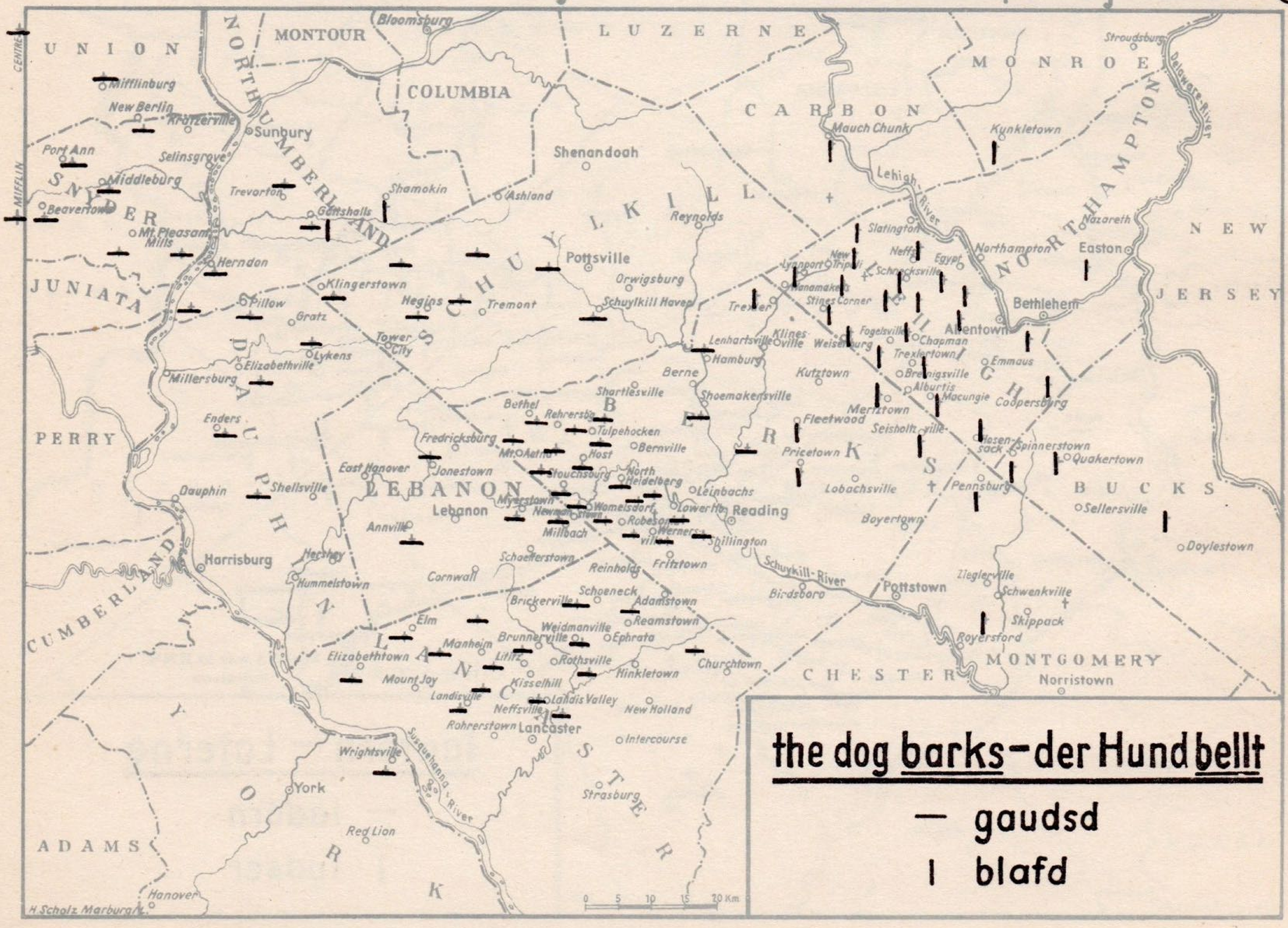
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (77)



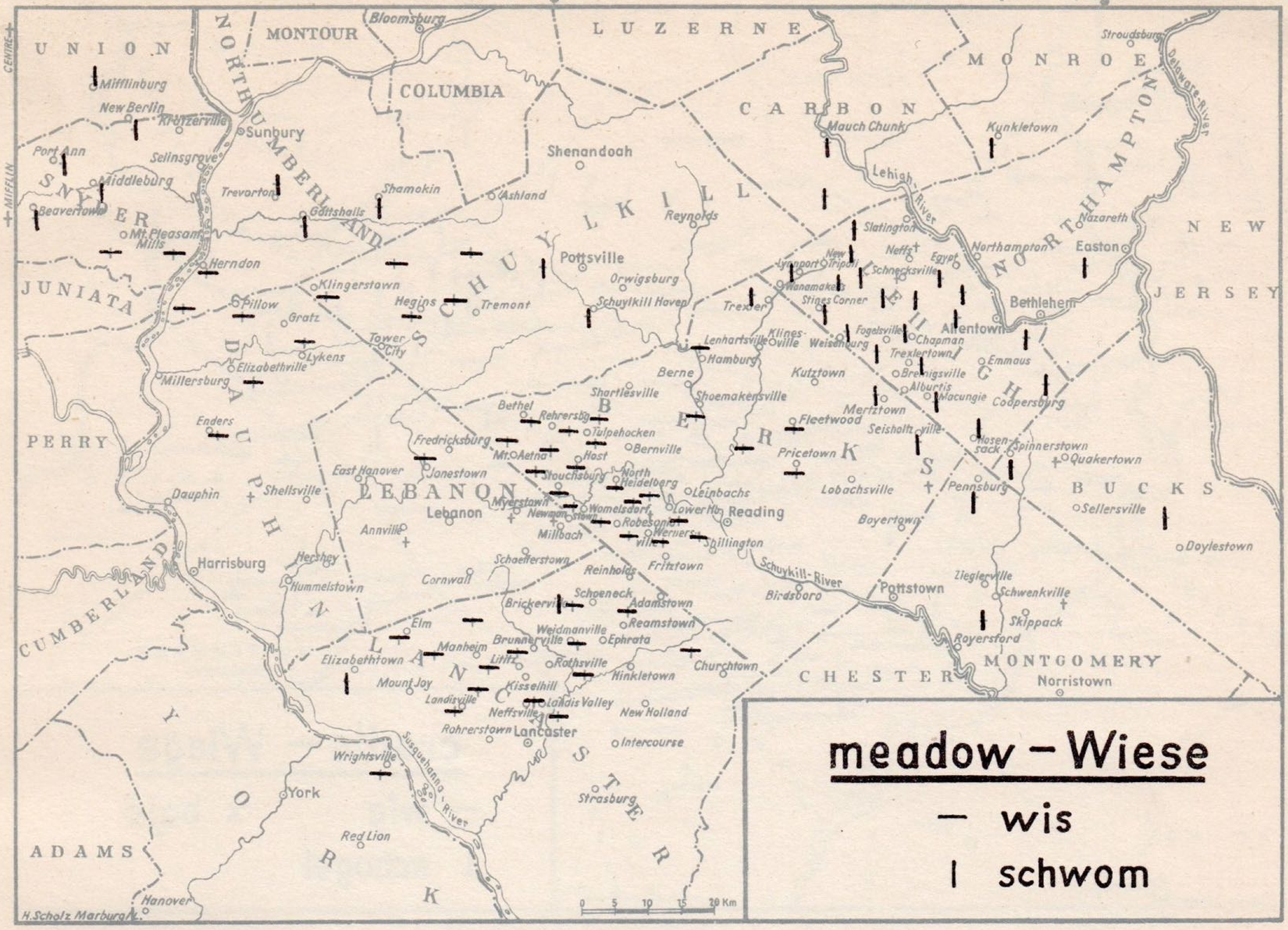
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (78)



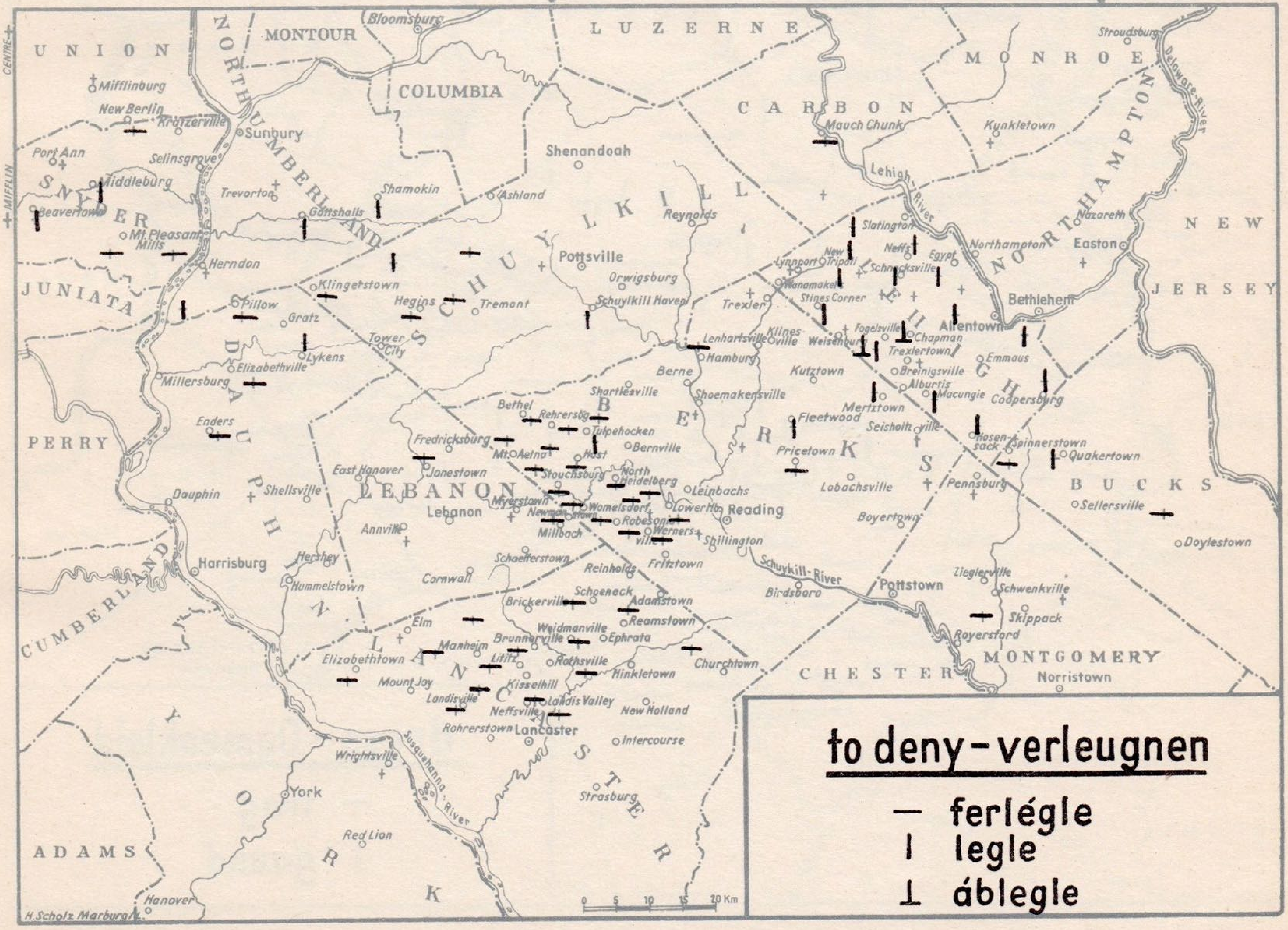
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (79)



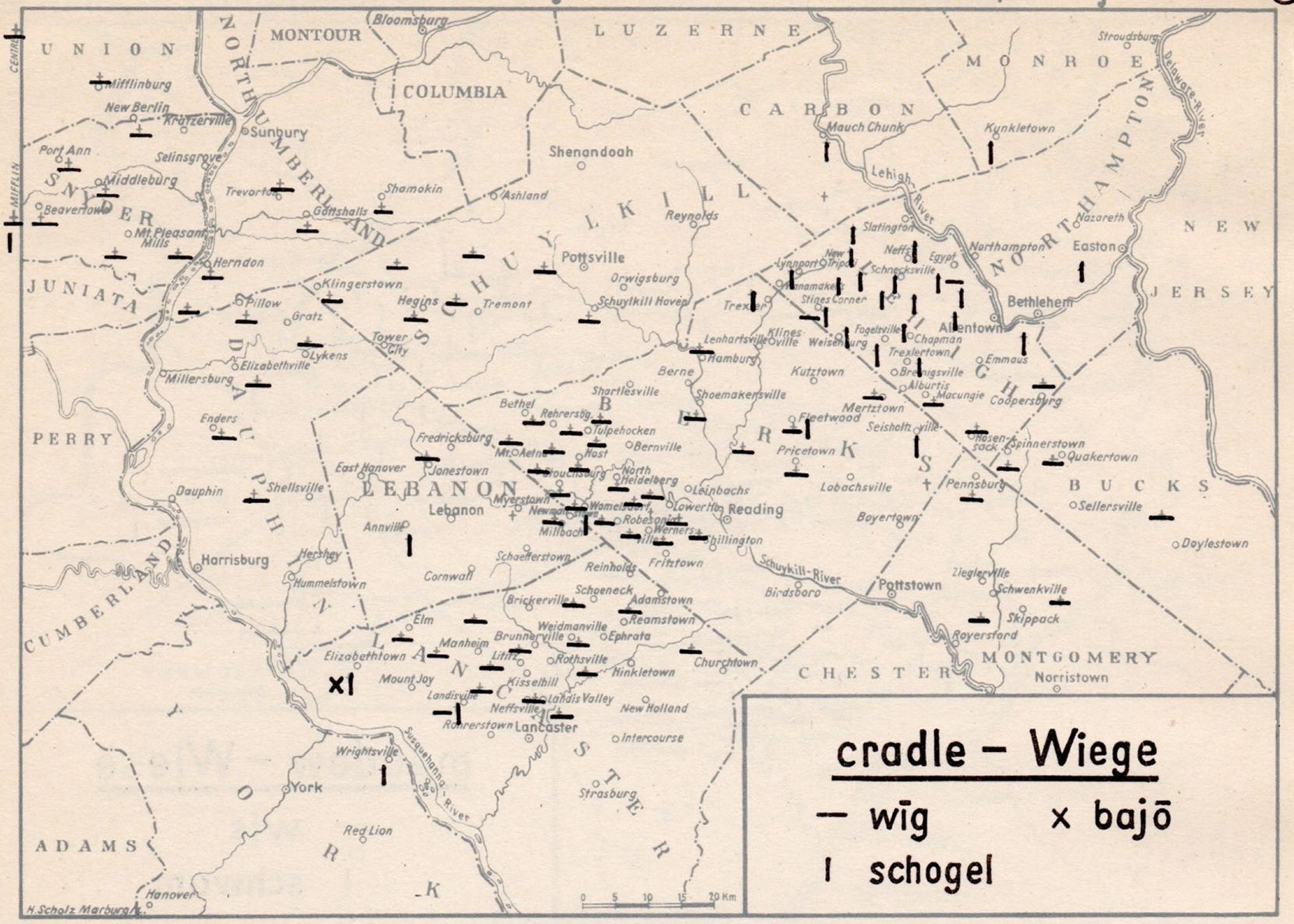
Southeastern Pennsylvania Südostpennsylvanien 80



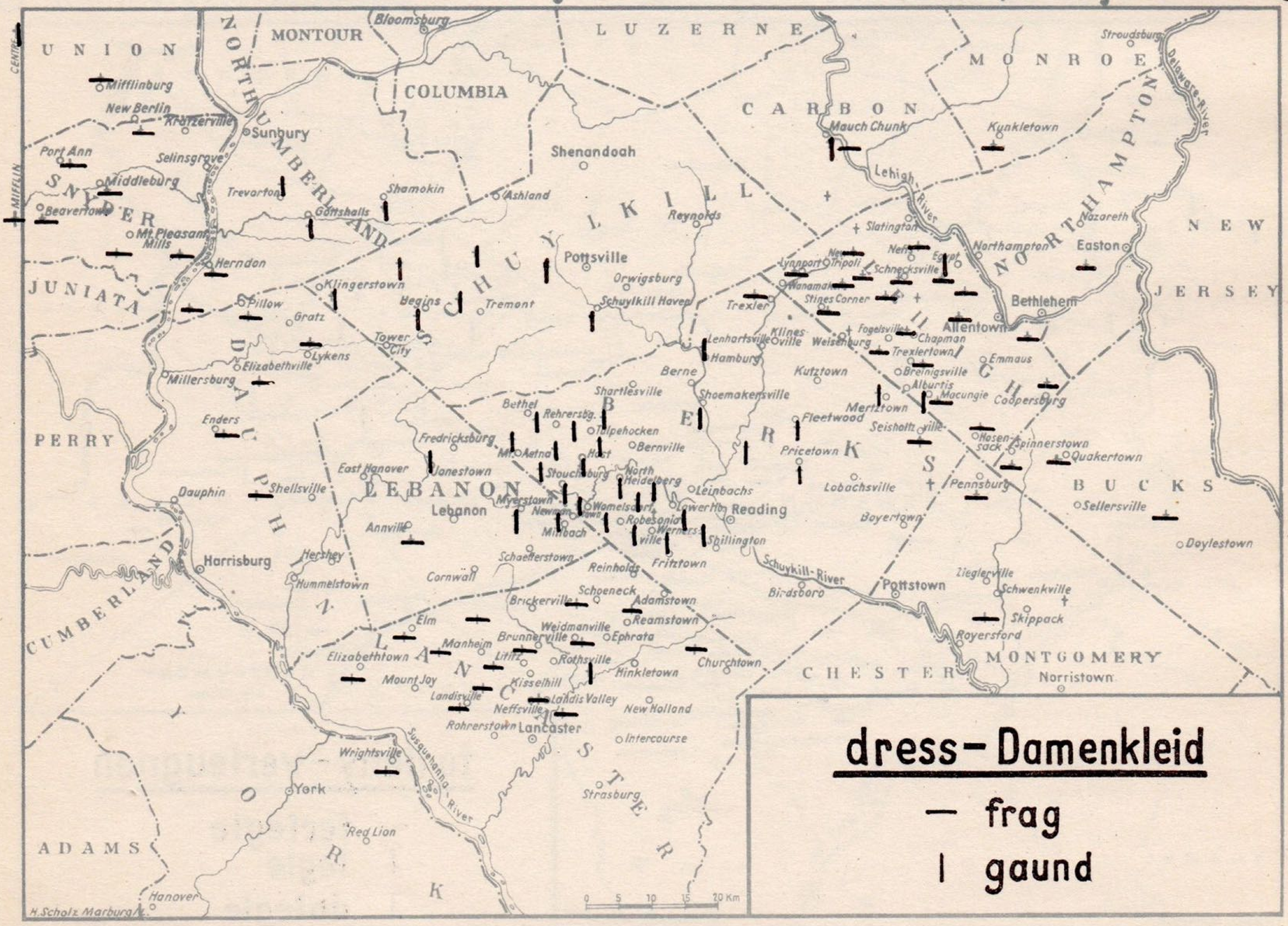
Southeastern Pennsylvania Südostpennsylvanien 81



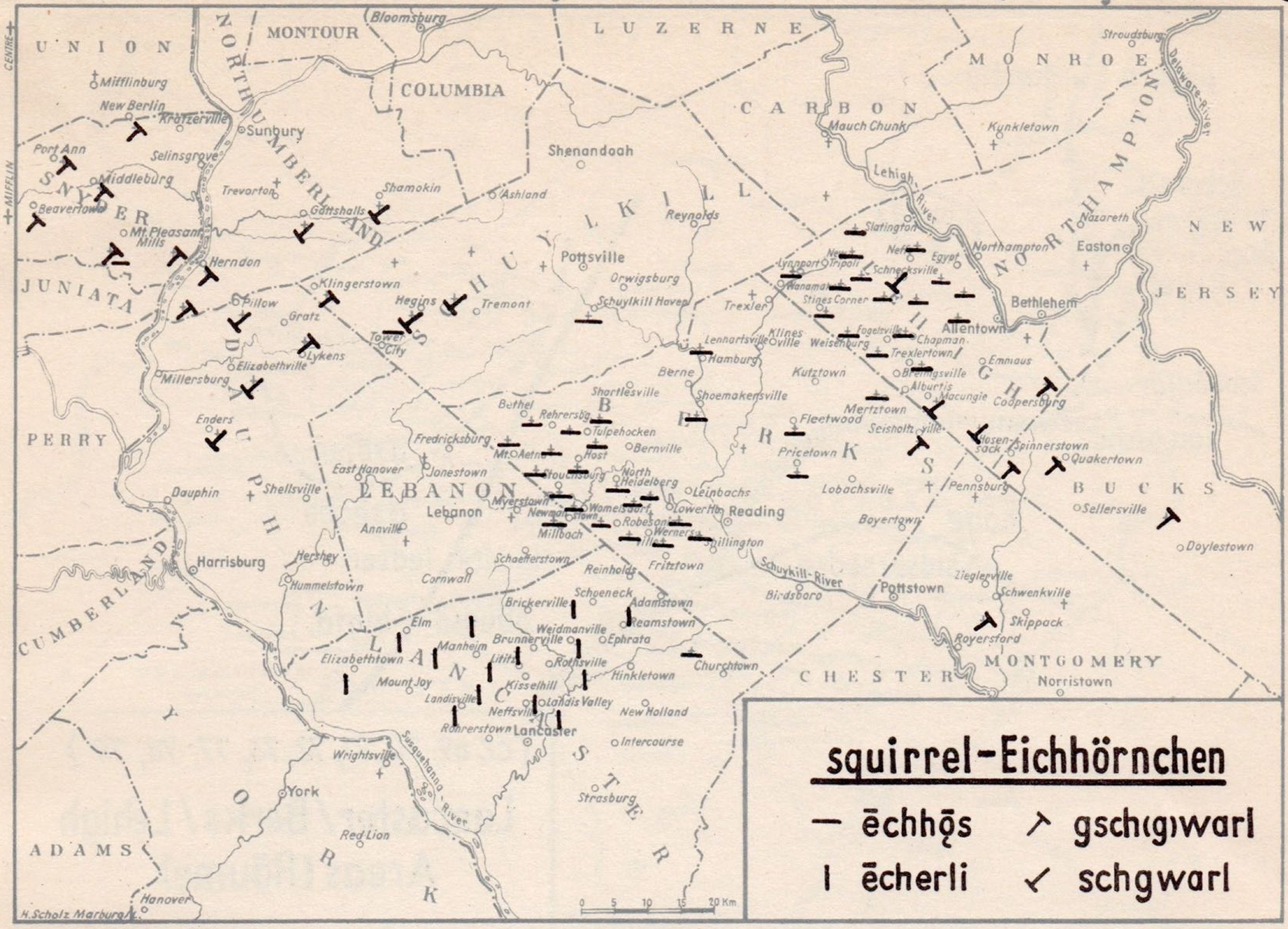
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (82)



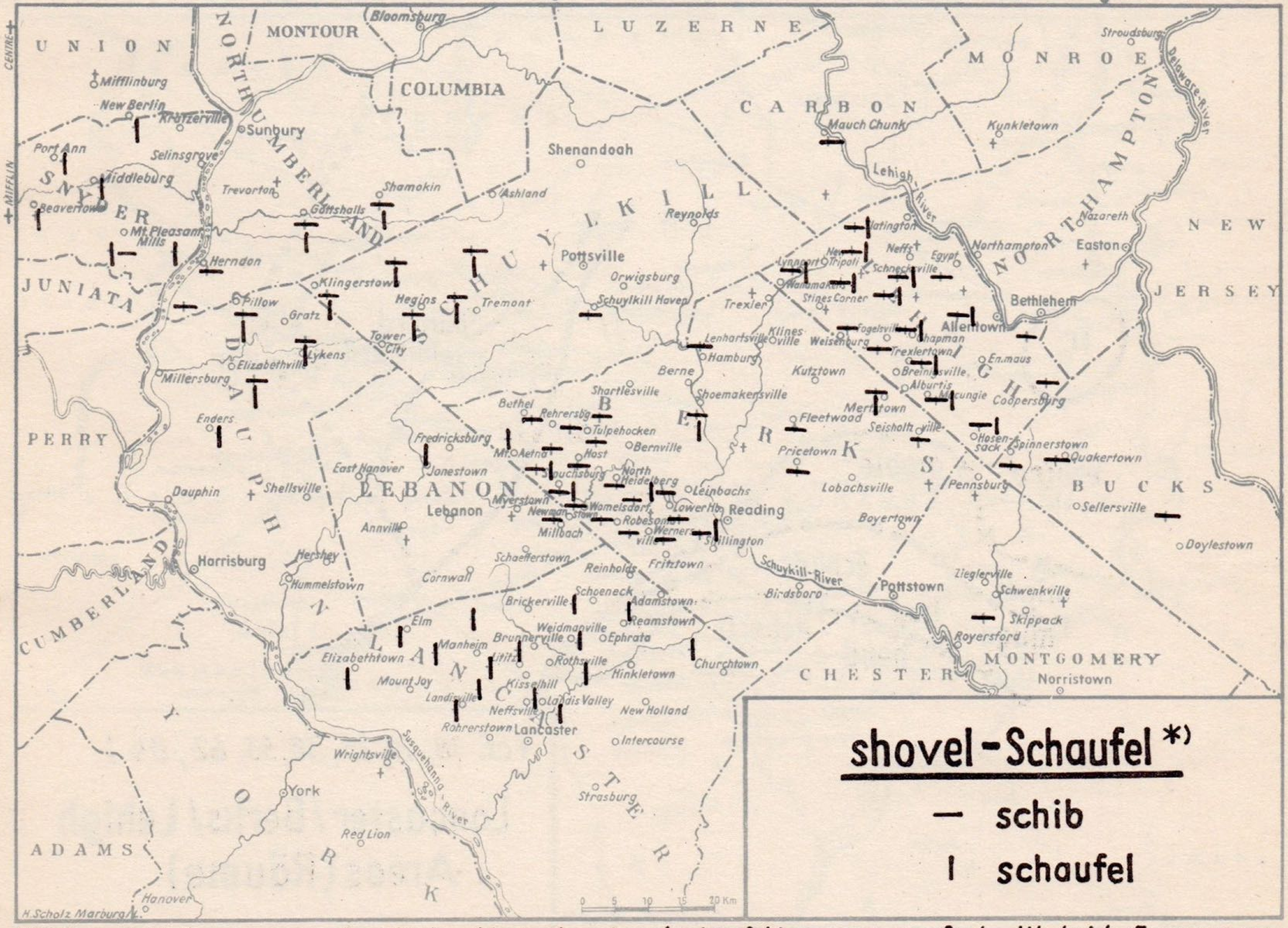
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (83)



Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (84)

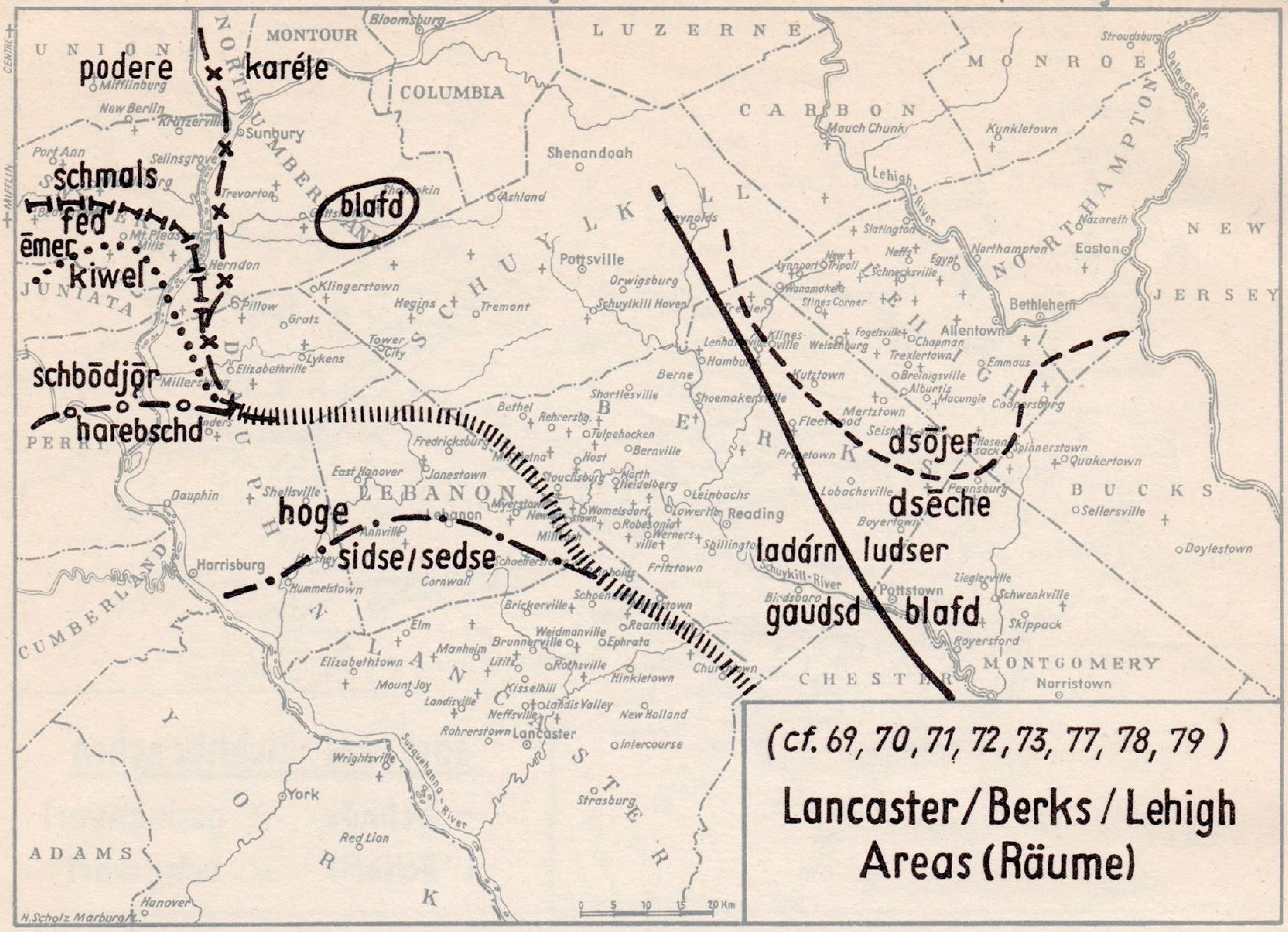


Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien (85)



*) *Where both forms are used, schib is a blade shovel and schaufel is a scoop or a fork. Wo beide Formen vorkommen, ist schib ein Spaten und schaufel entweder eine Schaufel oder eine Gabel.*

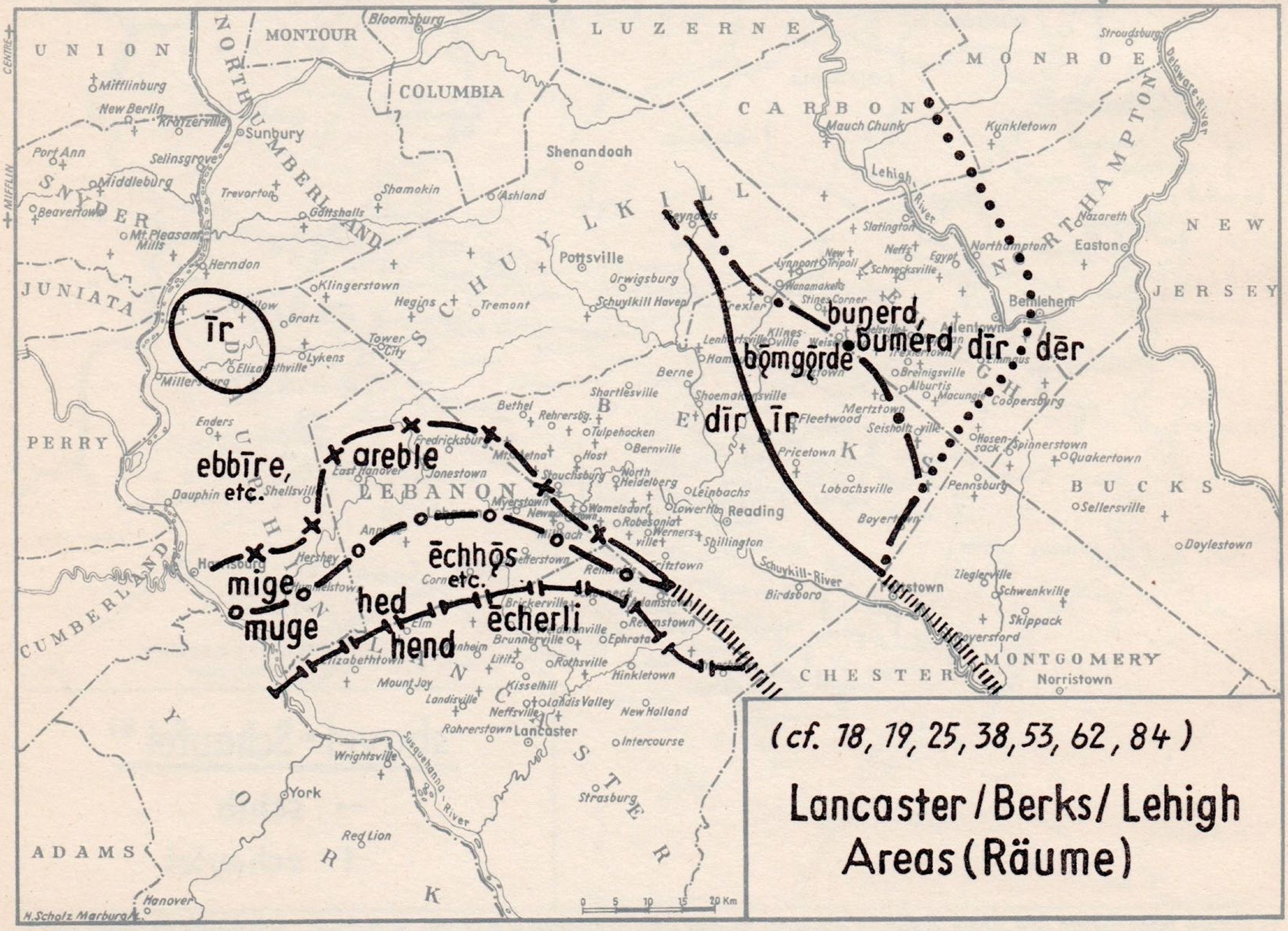
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien 86



(cf. 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 77, 78, 79)

Lancaster/Berks/Lehigh Areas (Räume)

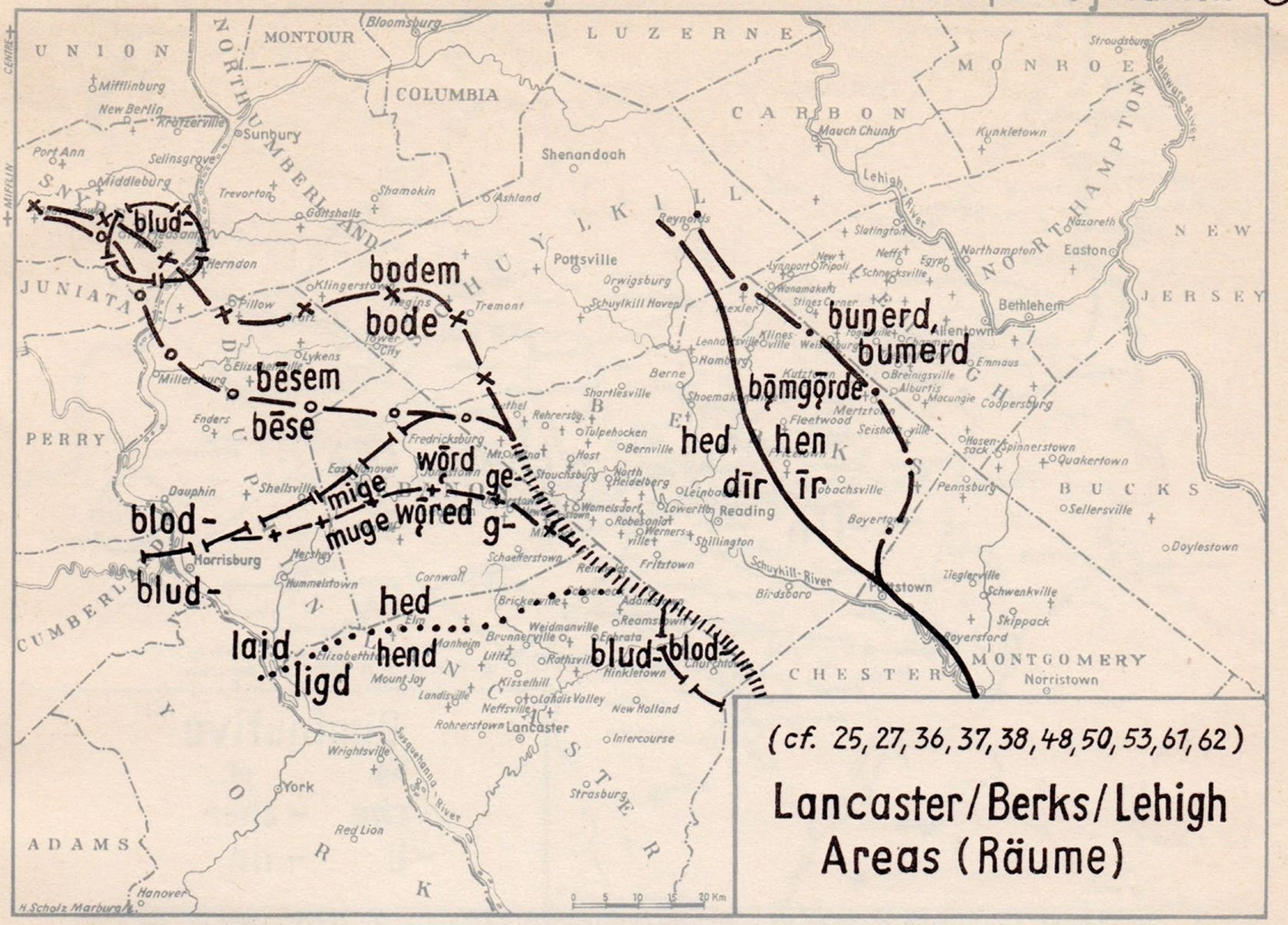
Southeastern Pennsylvania — Südostpennsylvanien 87



(cf. 18, 19, 25, 38, 53, 62, 84)

Lancaster/Berks/Lehigh Areas (Räume)

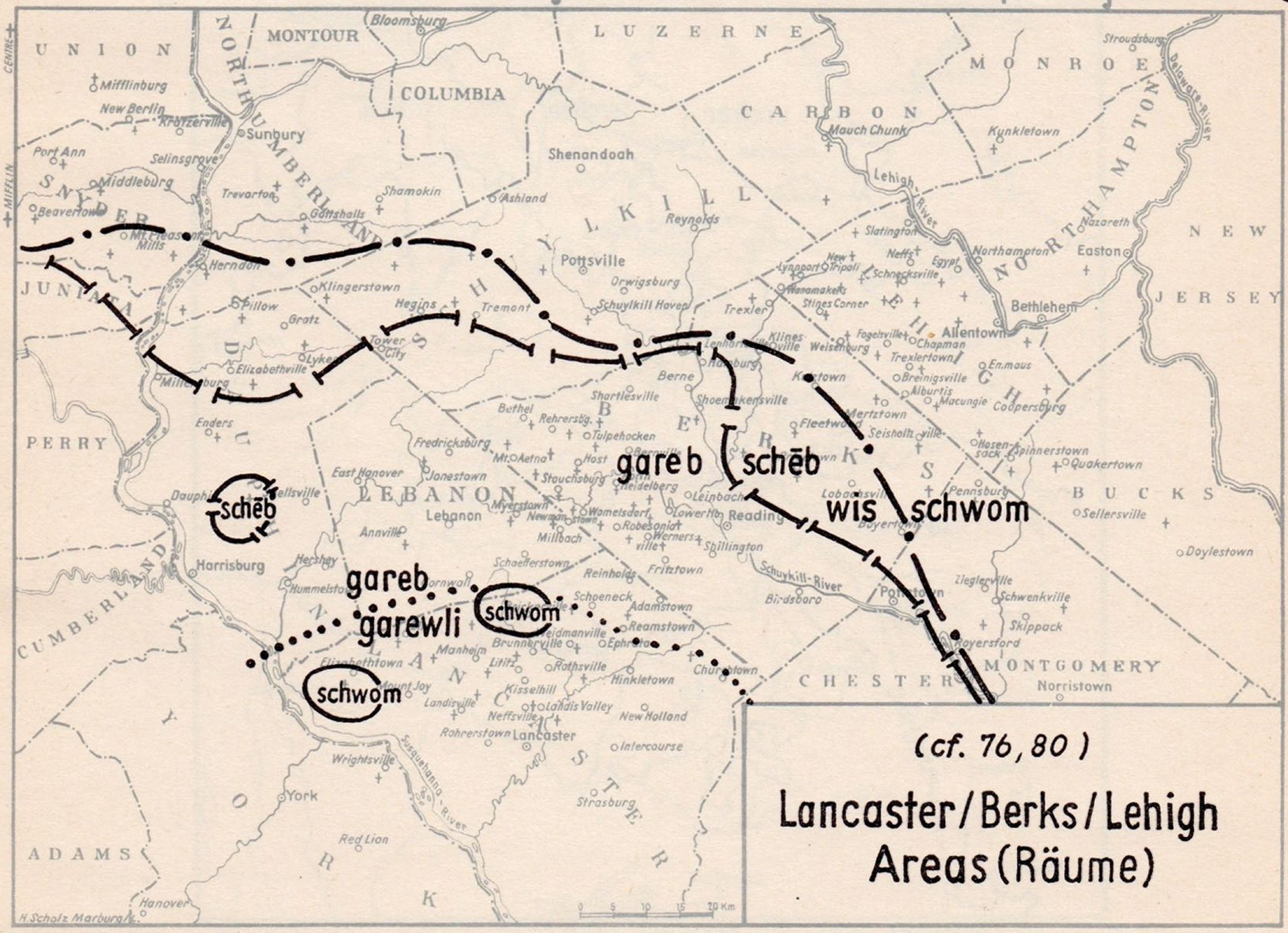
Southeastern Pennsylvania Südostpennsylvanien 88



(cf. 25, 27, 36, 37, 38, 48, 50, 53, 61, 62)

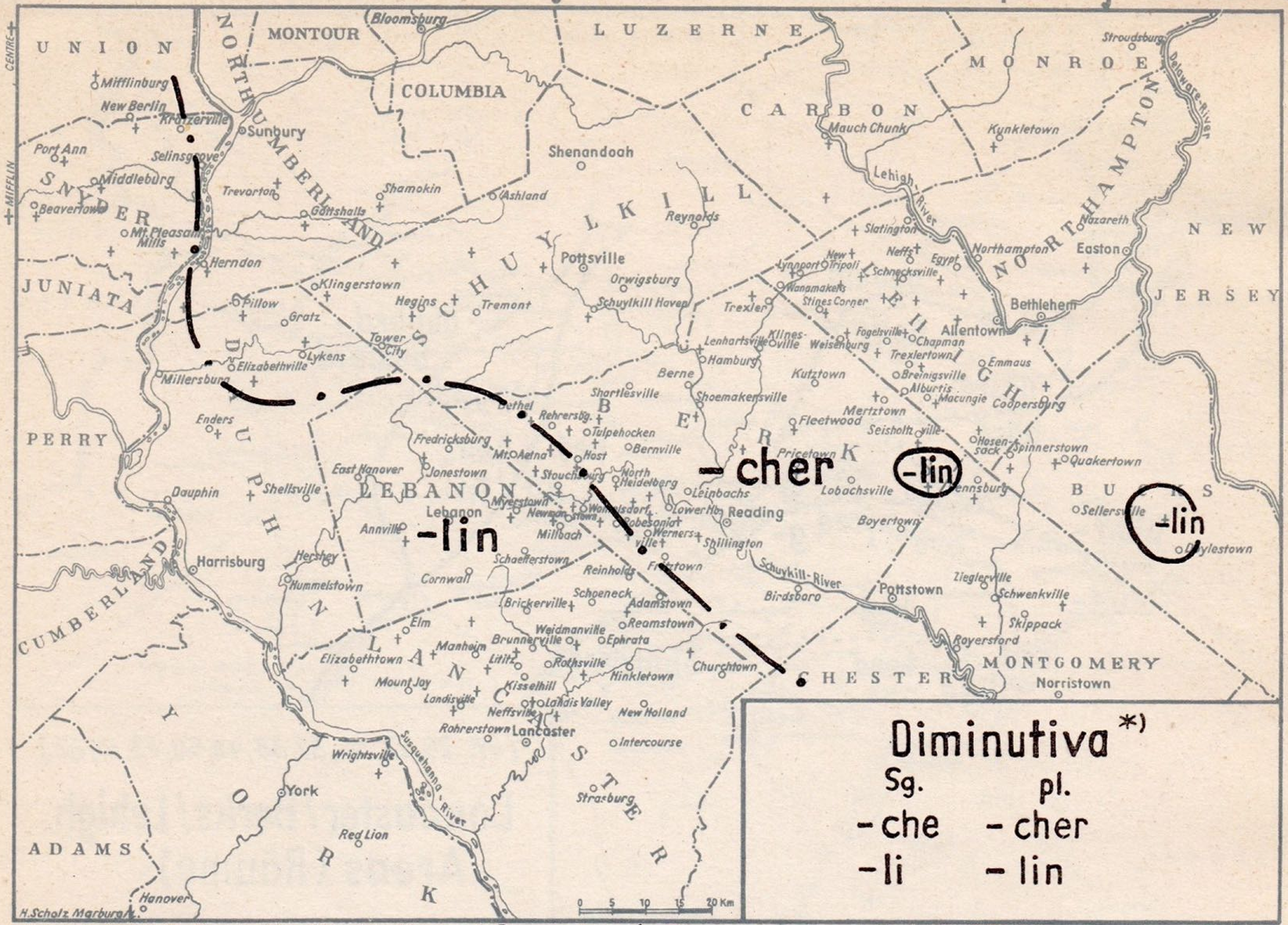
Lancaster/Berks/Lehigh Areas (Räume)

Southeastern Pennsylvania Südostpennsylvanien 89



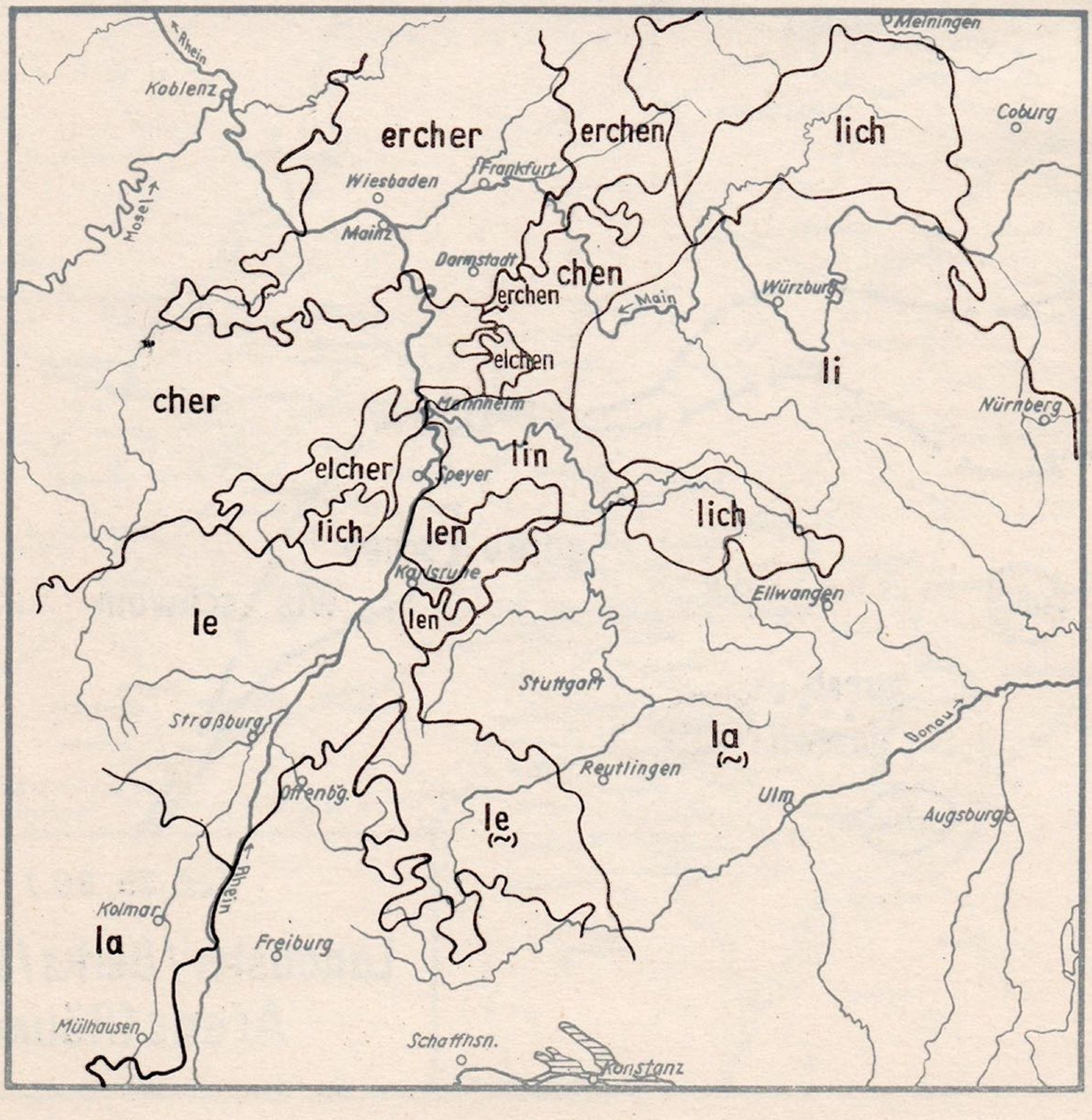
(cf. 76, 80)

Lancaster/Berks/Lehigh Areas (Räume)



*) cf. L. W. Seifert, The Diminutives of Pennsylvania German. (Monatshefte, XXXIX (1947), pp. 285 - 293)

DSA. Karte „(Schäf)chen" 90a



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